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Casual impregnators for 57 years

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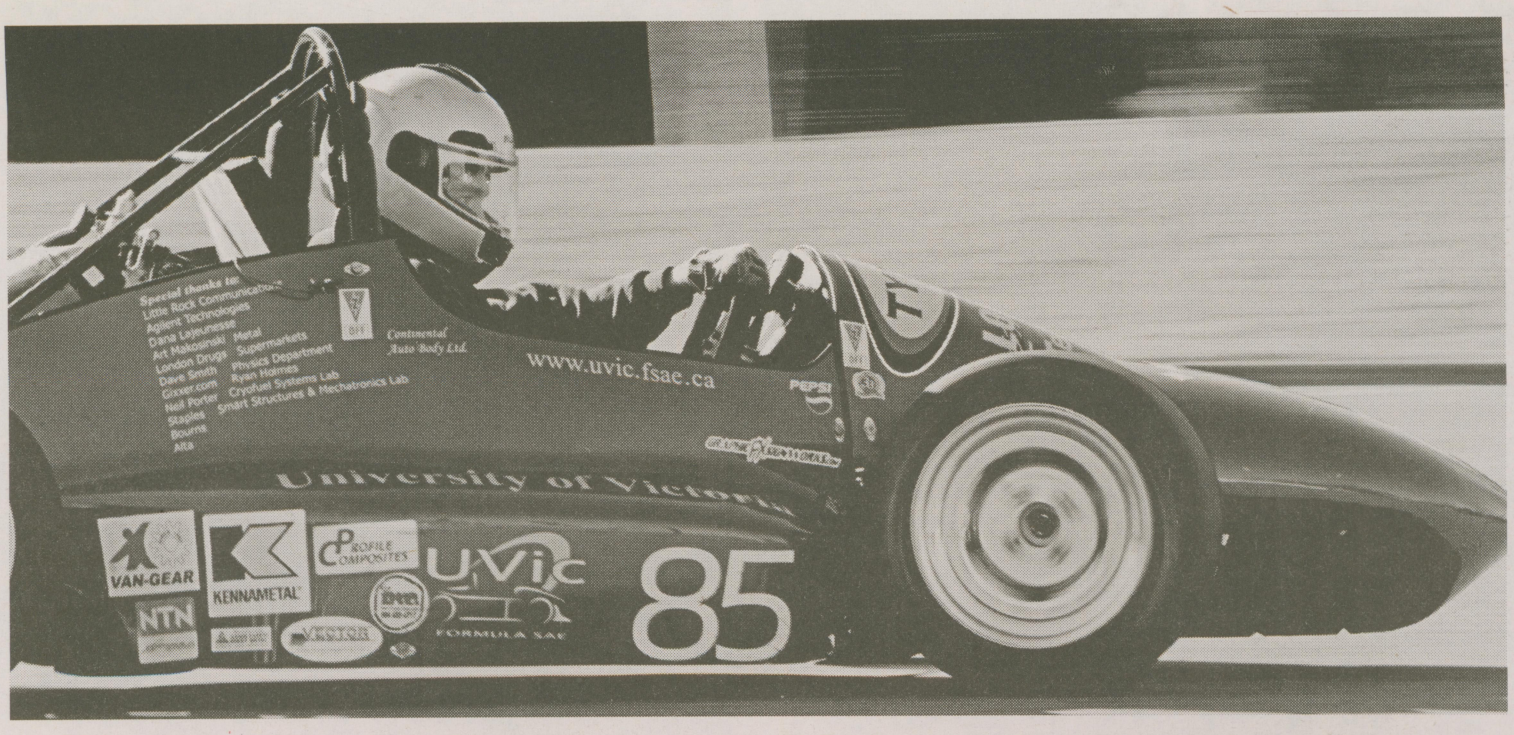
Thursday, February 24, 200 e 57, Issue 23

UVIC STUDENTS CHOOSE CHOICE

SEE PAGE FOUR

B. BRADY PHOTO



Formula for speed

Dubbed UVic's underground sport, the Formula SAE team shows off their mechanical achievements Feb. 20 while attracting avid speedsters.

The open-cockpit car reaches speeds of 175 kilometres per hour, and the team is constructing a new model for future international competitions, including a contest this July in Britain.

Since 1981, avid mechanical engineers with the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) have organized Formula SAE, a competition that draws the attention of Ford, General Motors and Daimler-Chrysler.

AARON MCMILLAN PHOTO.

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Protest briefly halts CSIS job recruitment

by Patrick Szpak

AARON MCMILLAN PHOTO

Canada's intelligence agency, CSIS, came under fire at February's job fair for using secret evidence in the imprisonment of five men.

A small group of protesters temporarily interrupted recruiting at the Canadian Security and Intelligence Service's (CSIS) booth at UVic's Job Fair on Feb. 9.

Resplendent in their Guantanamo Bay orange T-shirts and waving signs with slogans like "Who's Next" and "Ban the Secret Certificates," members of Victoria's No One is Illegal (NOII) action group marched through the Michele Pujol room and assembled in front of the CSIS recruiting booth. Dressed as prisoners, the 11 protesters presented CSIS representative Mike Hoag with a copy of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

NOII acted out against CSIS's role in gathering secret evidence used in the issuance of Security Certificates. Such information allows for the detention or deportation of a non-Canadian on the basis of evidence that neither the accused nor her or his lawyer is allowed to see.

The evidence is kept secret because it is often provided by foreign intelligence services that insist on secrecy or because of its alleged importance to national security.

Secret Security Certificate evidence has been used to hold five Arab men in prison in Canada without trial for a total of 184 months.

"This is Canada's Guantanamo Bay," said Naava Smolash, spokesperson for NOII, alluding to the infamous naval base and prison used by the United States government as a means of holding suspected terrorists without trial for indefinite periods of time.

Smolash said that her group gave a copy of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms to the CSIS rep in order to remind the agency of citizens' rights and of the impact the organization's actions are having on human rights in Canada.

"Since CSIS seems not to have encountered the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms given their role in the use of secret evidence, we thought we'd help them out by bringing them a copy," said Smolash.

Hoag accepted the Charter of Rights and Freedoms but dismissed the group's criticisms. Hoag said that CSIS exists in order to ensure that Canadians have the right to engage in peaceful protest and added that he "honestly didn't pay any attention to the accusations."

He declined comment on the Security Certificates and said that Canadians have nothing to fear from CSIS. "We have so many checks and balances to ensure that we are operating within our mandate."

The Security Certificates have generated considerable controversy since the arrest and imprisonment of Mohammed Zeki Mahjoub, Adil Charkaoui, Hassan Almrei, Mohamed Arkat and Mahmoud Jaballah.

Charkaoui was recently released after 23 months of confinement. They all are alleged to have ties to al-Qaida or other terrorist groups. Each denies the accusations.

On Dec. 10, 2004, the Canadian Court of Appeal in Ottawa ruled that Security Certificates are constitutional and that allowing the prisoners to be released would be "an abandonment by the community as a whole of its right to survival in the name of blind absolutism of individual rights."

Critics, however, do not consider the Security Certificates as protecting the welfare of Canadians.

"Stripping civil liberties is not protecting Canadians," said Smolash. "How does detaining people without due process, then deporting them to countries in which they disappear, [protect] us from terrorism? If they are charged and tried then there is a process for determining guilt or innocence and [a process] for taking appropriate measures to protect Canadians."

James Bissett, former director of Immigration Services, said that accused terrorists should be treated differently that other suspected criminals.

"You can't use the ordinary machinery of law," he said. "To wait for an offence to be committed and then use due process of law is fine for dealing with criminals. It's not fine for terrorists. You can't wait for them to blow up several thousand people and then charge them."

The prisoners' situation is further complicated by the fear that they will be tortured in their home countries should they be deported. Canada is signatory to a 1987 convention banning deportations if there is substantial grounds to believe that the deportee will be tortured in their home country.

Parliament introduced Security Certificates as part of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act of 1991. Security Certificates have been used 27 times since their inception.

The attorney general of Canada is currently reviewing the use of Security Certificates.

CORRECTION

A headline in the Feb. 10 edition of the Martlet incorrectly described a discussion panel as "pro-life" when it was pro-choice. We apologize for the error.

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Students choose choice

Gender Policy #2 of the UVSS Issues Policy will retain the statement: "The Society opposes the implementation of any new abortion law." Gender Policy #3 of the UVSS Issues Policy will retain the statements: "The Society supports the fundamental right of all women to control their bodies" and "The Society supports freedom of choice in the matter of abortion."

by Megan Stewart

The University of Victoria Students' Society is still pro-choice after two controversial motions failed at the semi-annual general meeting Feb. 10.

After nearly two hours of debate, more than 600 students overwhelmingly defeated both motions to repeal aspects of Gender Policies 2 and 3, which deal with the Society's stance towards abortion law and a woman's right to choice.

Before the meeting could begin, students were moved from Cinecenta to outside the Student Union Building in order to accommodate the number of participants.

Temperatures dropped as the sun sank behind the Clearihue clock tower, but hundreds of students endured the cold in order to vote. The debate split the crowd into two main camps: a pro-choice contingent that included members of the Women's Centre and the Anti-Violence Project, and a pro-life crowd that compromised mainly of members of Youth Protecting Youth (YPY), the UVSS club that endorsed both motions.

In response to individual speakers, the crowd heckled and cheered, prompting the chairperson to ask repeatedly for order.

Once the meeting was underway, director of finance Agata Lis put forward a motion for secret ballot, saying she had talked to multiple students with concerns over voting procedure and anonymity. Secret ballot, she said, would allow students to vote in a "safe" manner.

Despite the immediate availability of polling booths and ballots, students voted down the motion. One speaker criticized the motion as a "very last minute . . . delaying tactic."

Laura Galvrey moved the first motion, which called for a repeal of the UVSS Issues Policy statement, "The Society opposes the implementation of any new abortion law." She said the policy is not about abortion but rather the integrity of the university as an "open learning environment."

YPY vice-president Del Myers said that the language of policy, in fact, opposes any new law on abortion, and not just any law that would make the procedure illegal. He argued that the policy "indiscriminately opposes law on a contentious issue" and is "a poor example for future policies that may deal with the law."

Speaking to the spirit of the existing policy, director at large Erik Haensal said the wording falls in line with the Canadian constitution, which enshrines a woman's right to control her own body. "What this policy is stating is that there can be no government law that comes into effect that affects the constitutional right of women to control their own bodies."

The motion failed by a clear margin, setting the stage for what followed.

Debate proceeded to the second motion, which called for a repeal of two phrases from Gender Policy #3 that state the Society's support "for the fundamental right of all women to control their bodies" and "for freedom of choice in the matter of abortion."

NIC HUME PHOTO

Colleen Brudenelle argues that not having a stance on the issue of abortion is not neutral.

In regards to the controversial attempt to repeal the statement granting a woman personal autonomy, Myers explained that his complaint was with the language of the policy. "These policies introduce language that implies the UVSS regards abortion to be a morally viable, good option. There are members of the Society who disagree with this stance and they fear marginalization."

Myers also told students that YPY was trying to neither deny a woman access to abortion nor to argue about the morality of abortion. "We have a serious moral contention with the current state of UVSS policy," he said, "but we have no choice but to be members of this society."

Colleen Brudenelle argued that not having a stance on the issue of abortion is not neutral. She said that pro-choice language supports all choices, including the right to safe access to abortion or the right to carry a pregnancy to term.

"This is a matter of discrimination, and there is no middle ground," said Brudenelle. "We do not live in a neutral world; thus, the university cannot take a neutral stance surrounding the implementation of equal rights.

"Unlike anti-choice, pro-choice supports education, awareness and options—thus it does not target or discriminate against any individual group."

The second motion also failed by a clear margin, prompting embraces among some and inciting tears from others.

REACTIONS

Undergrads and student representatives shared their opinions on everything from why students choose to pay tuition at UVic to the success of the debate.

The co-ordinator of UVic's Women's Centre, Jen Cooper, was pleased that such a large number of the student body upheld the Society's pro-choice stance. The policies, she said, do not mean pro-abortion but serve to uphold and support a woman's personal right to make her own decisions.

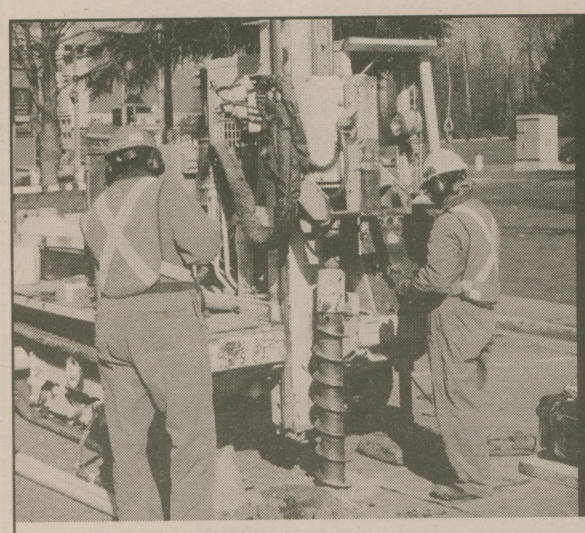
While members of Youth Protecting Youth argue that the current policies lack neutrality, opponents say pro-choice is inherently neutral since it supports a woman's choice, whether it be abortion or pregnancy.

Steven Nuttall voted in favour of both motions and does not agree with the stance that pro-choice supports all choices. He repeatedly held up a photo of his young son and said that if adults are responsible enough to have sex, they can handle the potential outcome of a pregnancy.

Robin Kozak of the Anti-Violence Project said that students made an "informed decision" to enroll at UVic and repealing the policies "would be a tragedy."

"For many of us, the social and political climate, as evidenced by policies such as these, was essential in our decision," said Kozak.

Member of the Christian Student Movement and pro-choice supporter David Ball felt that the charged atmosphere limited discussion between the outspoken, dogmatic groups and he wanted to hear more. He was so nervous that he accidently broke his student card before taking the stage, saying the heckling was intimidating for many speakers and helped stifle debate.



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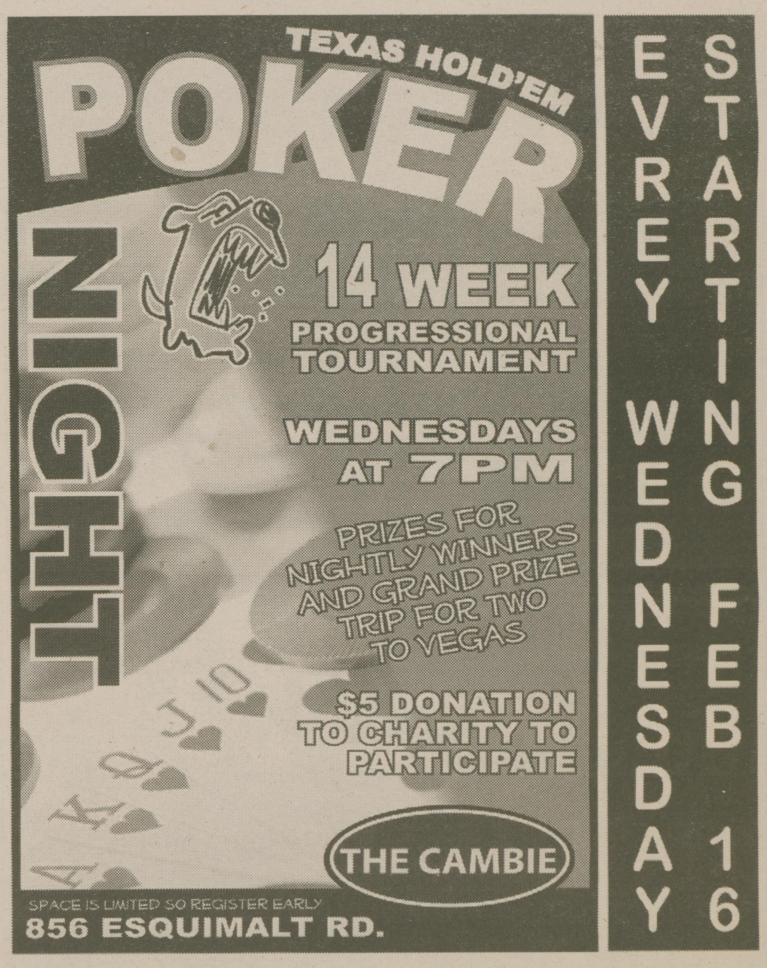


Without core funding, critic says any tuition cap a 'mistake'

by Bryna Hallam

The provincial government's budget was met with criticism last week, but Gordon Campbell's Liberals are promising a "golden age" for British Columbians.

Despite the government's promise to cap tuition fee increases at the rate of inflation and, over the next three years, infuse $6.5 billion into health care, the environment and education, critics say students and post-secondary institutions will suffer.

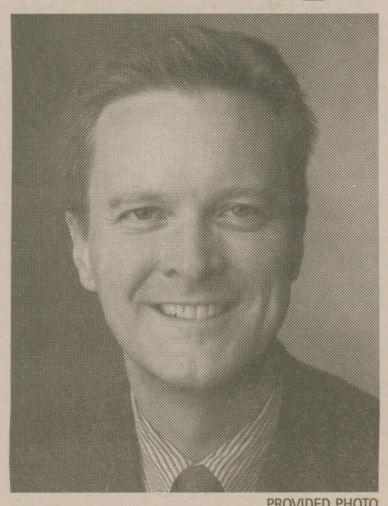
"For B.C. students the bottom line is still marked in red as a result of three years of massive tuition fee increases," said Lisa MacLeod, B.C. chairperson for the Canadian Federation of Students.

Students across the province agree.

"We should remember that this is the same government that, over the past three years, has overseen the biggest tuition fee increases across the country," said Simon Fraser University student society president Chris Giacomantonio.

"While I appreciate that the Liberal government has finally begun to invest in higher education with the increase to the student financial aid program and increased operating funds for our universities," he continued, "those funds are not nearly enough to meet the Liberals' demands for more seats and new programs."

The government plans to add 25,000 new seats at post-secondary institutions province-wide by 2010. So far at UVic, this has meant an additional 500 seats per year for both the 2004–05 and 2005–06 school years.



PROVIDED PHOTO

Finance Minister Colin Hansen.

However, with the planned cap on tuition fees, as announced in the recent throne speech, the amount of money going to the universities will actually decrease.

"Capping tuition fees at the rate of inflation will make post-secondary education costs more palatable to cash-strapped students and their families," said Norma Wieland, the president of the Confederation of University Faculty Associations of British Columbia (CUFA/BC). "However, without a corresponding increase in the core funding to offset inflation and the growth in student numbers, it leaves universities once again scrambling to do more with less."

Wieland considers this a "mistake" and compares it to the NDP's tuition freeze in the mid-'90s. "In 1996, the NDP government made a similar mistake in freezing tuition fees without a fully compensatory increase in core funding," she said. "This continued for several years and the result was hiring freezes at the universities, larger classes, fewer library resources and more limited course choices for students in certain programs."

According to CUFA/BC, government funding per student space was $8,659 in 2004–05. Using the government's planned inflation projections, they predict this number will drop to $8,131 by 2007–08, resulting in a total province-wide shortfall of $177.7 million.

UVSS Chairperson Joanna Groves is also concerned.

"I was heartened by the announcement of the tuition fee cap," she said, "but now that I have seen the budget I am extremely worried because it appears that the cap is not fully funded. I'm afraid of what cuts the university may have to make."

UVic's budget for 2005-2006 will be announced in the next few months.

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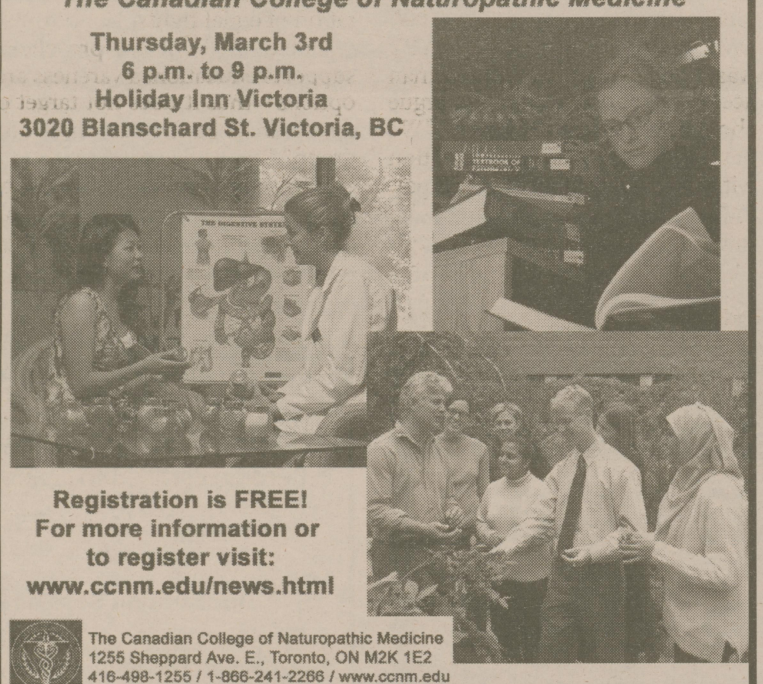

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UVic grad sets sights on legislature

by David Karp

Eight years after impersonating an electoral officer during student elections, former UVSS chairperson Rob Fleming is campaigning again.

He's running in the May provincial election with the New Democratic Party (NDP) in the Victoria-Hillside riding.

In the 1997 campaign that got him elected as UVSS director of finance, Fleming pretended he was an electoral officer in order to get election banners torn down.

In what Fleming calls a "rash act of stupidity," he left a phone message for the Housing, Food and Conference Services manager claiming to be an electoral officer. He told the manager that certain election banners in the Senate and Board of Governors (BoG) race that were hanging outside the residence cafeteria needed to be taken down.

MICHELLE LEVESQUE PHOTO

NDP candidate Rob Fleming believes scandal is behind him.

The banners were removed and Fleming was briefly disqualified from the student society elections for violating UVSS electoral policy.

Fleming was reinstated after he appealed the decision twice and argued that his actions didn't affect the UVSS election, which is separate from the Senate and BoG race.

Fleming ran and won the seat of UVSS chairperson in 1998. He was instrumental in negotiating the U-Pass.

He was elected to Victoria City Council in 1999, where he is serving his second term.

Fleming dismissed the 1997 UVSS election scandal, saying he doesn't "think the mainstream media is going to touch it."

So far, his opponents aren't touching it either. "Rob is a very pleasant young man—no question," said Liberal Sheila Orr, who is running for re-election against Fleming. She believes her views are "very similar" to his.

Fleming disagrees. He said that he wouldn't have supported Premier Gordon Campbell's budget cuts, and Orr "failed to distinguish herself from the other backbenchers."

It is anyone's guess as to who will come out on top, but UVic political scientist Norman Ruff believes that Fleming "stands a very good chance," and pointed to his stature in the community. Veteran Victoria city councillor Helen Hughes said that "people have a good feeling about working with him" and described Fleming as a team player.

While this may be true, NDP leader Carole James has been critical about the excessive amount of men on her election team.

"I think we need to make sure that our candidates reflect the faces of British Columbia," James said the day after Fleming earned the nomination. She said that she is "concerned" about the configuration of NDP candidates.

"It's pretty clear . . . that we may need to—as a party—re-examine how our nomination process has happened and look at why we don't have more women coming forward."

Fleming is confident he'll find his niche in provincial politics and thinks that past positions with the UVSS have provided invaluable experience. "In an odd way, you have similar responsibilities in that you have a community that you have to take care of," he said, adding that both positions require accountability and advocacy on a wide range of issues.

Fleming isn't crossing his fingers for a NDP majority in the May 17 election, however. He is in favour of minority governments, adding he "would like to have more pluralism in B.C."

Langford Wal-Mart tries to unionize as Quebec store closes

by Patrick Szpak

The behemoth from Bentonville—otherwise know as the retail giant Wal-Mart—continued to halt attempts by organized labour to gain a foothold in its stores with an announcement last week of a store closure in Quebec.

The planned closing of a store in Jonquière, Que., will leave 190 employees without jobs in May.

The workers, who voted to unionize with the United Food & Commercial Workers (UFCW) last September, had spent the last three months in negotiations with Wal-Mart but had failed to reach a collective agreement.

Wal-Mart officials claimed that the closure had nothing to do with union negotiations and that the closure was due to poor performance and lack of profitability of the Jonquière store.

"We were unable to reach an agreement with the union that would have allowed the store to operate efficiently and properly," said Kevin Groh, spokesperson for Wal-Mart Canada.

Tom Fawkes, director of communications for local 1518 of the UFCW in British Columbia, was not surprised by the closure of the Jonquière outlet.

"Our members know that this corporation [Wal-Mart] will do anything. They are capable of anything," he said.

The UFCW is also attempting to unionize workers in the Tire and Lube department of the Langford Wal-Mart.

Fawkes said that the UFCW was undaunted by Wal-Mart's closure of its store in Quebec and that it would continue to battle for union representation of Wal-Mart employees across the country.

"We haven't slowed down any," said Fawkes. "Whether it takes six months or six years, it's inevitable [that Wal-Mart employees will have union representation]."

The Jonquière store was the first Wal-Mart in North America to unionize and is being followed by another Quebec Wal-Mart in St-Hyacinthe.

The American- and Canadian-based UFCW has been waging a nation-wide campaign in Canada to get unions into Wal-Mart outlets. The UFCW is supporting union activities in Quebec, Saskatchewan and B.C. stores.

The UFCW represents 230,000 workers across Canada.

Fawkes is confident that Wal-Mart will eventually succumb to the UFCW and points to successes the union has had with other large corporations like Coca-Cola, Zellers, The Real Canadian Superstore and Save-On-Foods.

"These companies are not pushovers. They're hard, tough employers, but they at least recognize the law and right of their employees to belong to a union," said Fawkes. "[These employers] don't give anything away, but [negotiations] have a substantial level of respect between both parties."

When asked if Wal-Mart brings the same level of respect to negotiations, Fawkes answered, "Absolutely not. Wal-Mart respects nothing."

Fawkes referred to recent fines given to Wal-Mart stores in the U.S. for having used child labour and having hired illegal immigrants, along with lawsuits claiming systematic sexism.

Wal-Mart, however, refuses to be depicted as a workplace ogre and has launched campaigns in the U.S. and Canada to "set the record straight" by trumpeting the company's alleged good relations with its associates, its name for employees, as well as the corporation's charitable activities, which amount to over $30 million in Canada.

Groh dismissed recent criticism. "We're the world's biggest [retail] corporation, and that makes us a target for criticism and scrutiny, whether earned or not."

"We try to have as direct a relationship as possible with our associates. We really prefer a one-to-one kind of dynamic," said Bill Wertz, spokesperson for Wal-Mart International.

Wertz's statement echoes the position of Wal-Mart U.S., which also claims a preference for one-to-one relationships unhampered by third parties such as unions.

In 2000, Wal-Mart terminated the position of meat-cutter in all of its U.S.-based stores shortly after 12 workers in Texas had voted to join the UFCW. Wal-Mart claimed that the decision to do away with meat-cutters was unrelated to the union.

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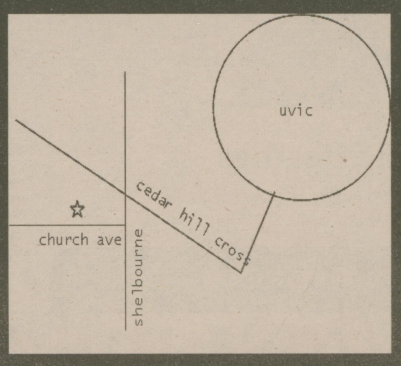

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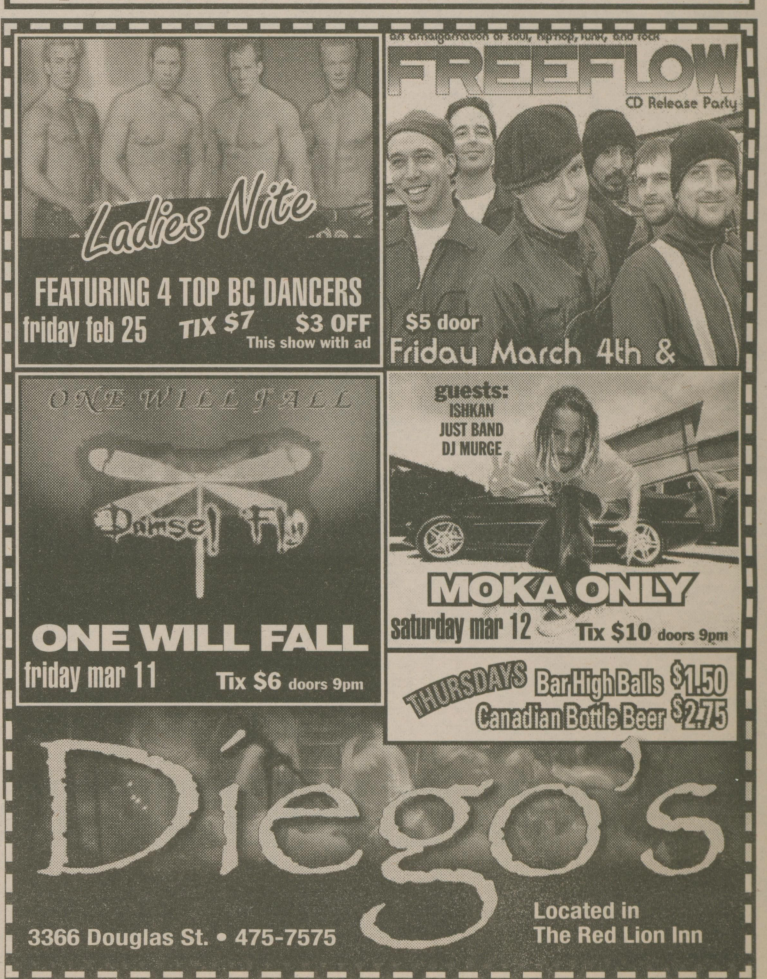


Improving democracy in B.C.

Referendum on electoral reform scheduled for May

by Andi Bergen

The Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform says the new proportional electoral system it is proposing for B.C. will improve the practice of democracy in the province.

"Election results will be fairer, reflecting a balance between votes and seats. Voters will have more choice and candidates will work harder to earn their support," says the final report of the Assembly, *Making Every Vote Count: The Case for Electoral Reform in British Columbia.*

After deliberating for 11 months, the group—made up of 160 randomly selected B.C. residents—has recommended a new electoral process for the province.

That recommendation is the BC-Single Transferable Vote (BC-STV). During the provincial election in May, B.C. residents will decide whether or not to adopt the new system.

If implemented, BC-STV will change the way residents are represented. There will be a clear balance between the popular vote and the seats that a party gets in government. That means if 60 per cent of the population vote for the Liberal party then roughly 60 per cent of the seats will go to the Liberals, a significant change from the current system where the Liberals control over 90 per cent of the seats with less than 60 per cent of the total votes.

The disproportionately high number of white, middle-class males in the legislature will likely be adjusted as well. Under an STV system "[t]here will also be more pressure on parties to have balance in nominations in terms of gender and in terms of visible minorities," said Norman Ruff, an associate professor of political science at UVic.

Smaller parties will also be able to get seats. "More people will vote for them as a first preference. You won't have that kind of strategic voting pressure that you have now," said Ruff.

Another change will be the size of constituencies. Each constituency will elect two to seven representatives. Consequently, the size of the constituencies will increase so that the current number of 79 representatives will not change. Without having multiple member ridings it would not be possible to achieve proportionality in each riding, explained James Lawson, an assistant professor of political science at UVic.

But it is not all about the parties and MLAs. This electoral reform is designed to benefit voters.

"If you really want to empower individual voters, this is the best system," said Ruff.

This is especially true for supporters of relatively small parties who currently have no representation in government. Through this, governments will be more accountable and will be forced to accept compromises, as they will have to consider the policy positions of several other parties.

The new system will also change the way ballots are cast. In an STV system voters rank candidates according to preference. "STV allows each and every voter the chance to say not only which candidate is their favourite, but also to rank a number of less favourite candidates," said Lawson. "In other words, who you could live with and not just who you desperately want to represent you."

Ruff points out that candidates will be "a lot nicer to each other" because they are trying to pick up the voters' second and third preferences.

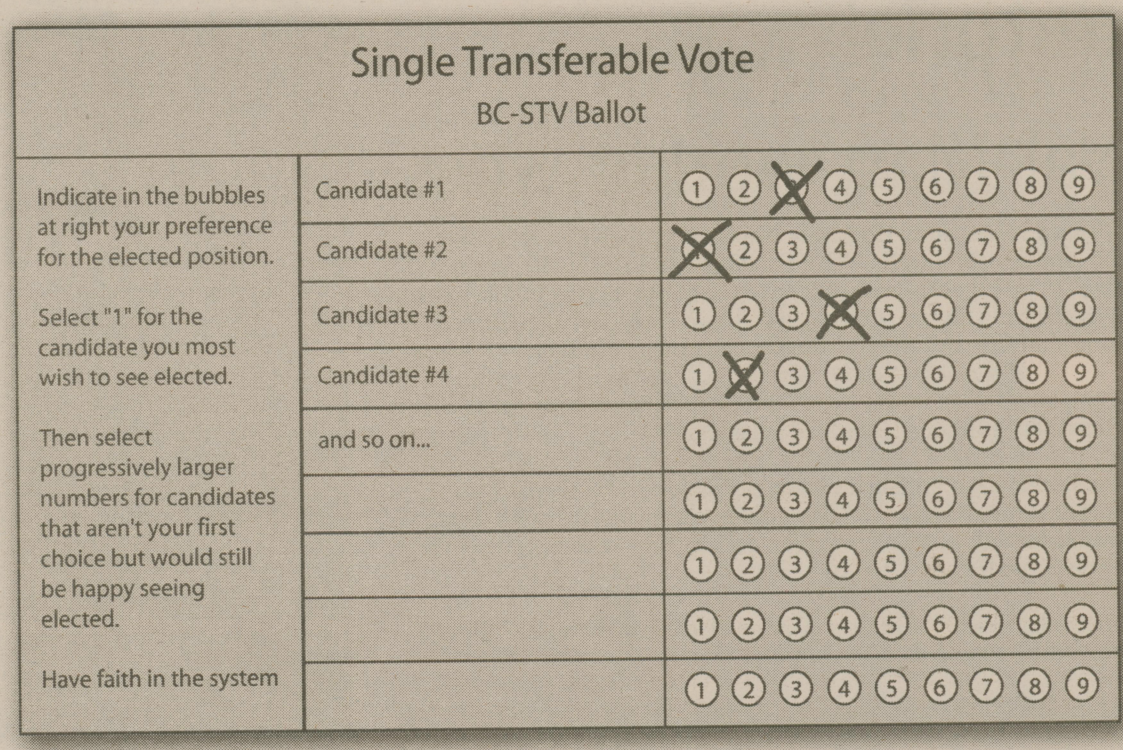
As a result, counting the votes will become more complex. Candidates will have to obtain a certain number of votes to get elected. If no candidate reaches this quota after the first count, then the candidate with the least votes gets eliminated. People who voted for the eliminated candidate will then have their vote transferred to their next preference. In the case that a candidate exceeds the quota, votes are then redistributed to the other candidates according to the next preference. By redistributing votes according to preference, BC-STV ensures that no vote will be "wasted."

Eventually, after dropping several candidates and relocating votes from one candidate to the other, the victorious candidates will be those who are most accepted by all the voters in the constituency.

In other countries that use STV systems "people have a sense that their vote counts, their choice really counts, that their vote won't be wasted and that increases the probability of a higher turnout," notes Ruff.

In order for BC-STV to be adopted, at least 60 per cent of the voters in B.C. need to vote in favour of it, as well as a simple majority in 60 per cent of the ridings. Any Canadian citizen over the age of 18 who has been living in B.C. for at least six months can vote in both the referendum and the election.

The Citizens' Assembly has also recommended that, if electoral reform is accepted, the effectiveness of BC-STV be reviewed with the involvement of ordinary citizens after three elections. More information regarding BC-STV can be obtained at www.citizensassembly.bc.ca


Single Transferable Vote
BC-STV Ballot
Indicate in the bubbles at right your preference for the elected position.
Select "1" for the candidate you most wish to see elected.
Then select progressively larger numbers for candidates that aren't your first choice but would still be happy seeing elected.
Have faith in the system
Candidate #1
Candidate #2
Candidate #3
Candidate #4
and so on...

GRAHAM STARK GRAPHIC

Notice of Elections
Graduate Students' Society

Positions Available:
Chair
Director of Communications
Director of Student Affairs
Director of Services
Director of Finance

Thinking of running? Come to the potential candidate Q&A March 1 at 1.30 in Room 108 of the Grad Centre.

For a nomination package or more information, please visit the GSS office, email gsscomm@uvic.ca or call 472-4543.

Nominations Open:
Thursday, February 24th
Nominations Close:
Friday, March 4th at 4pm

Meet your candidates Tuesday March 15 in Room 108 of the Grad Centre. Refreshments provided.

Term runs April 1, 2005 to March 31, 2006

Voting Days: March 17 and 18th
http://gss.uvic.ca

Editorial

Wal-Mart worker woes

Workers in seven British Columbia Wal-Mart stores have applied for union representation with UFCW Canada Local 1518, but it's anyone's guess as to how the deal will work out. Wal-Mart is openly hostile towards unions and has a history of crushing employees who sign union cards, making it unlikely that the B.C. workers have much of a shot.

The employees work at Wal-Mart Tire & Lube Express departments in the province; the nearest one is located in Langford.

The only unionized store in the country— in Jonquiere, Quebec—is closing next May because Wal-Mart claims the union's demands were unreasonable and would worsen the store's already weak profits (see the story on page 6).

It's more likely that Wal-Mart was trying to make an example of the 190 employees by putting them out of work.

The problem is that most consumers don't see the poor treatment of Wal-Mart workers, the gender inequality in pay, the effect the company has on communities, or the company's staggering profit margins (over $9 billion, annually)—they just see low, low prices.

Those low prices—which bring in annual revenues of more than $250 billion—are accomplished by bullying suppliers, forcing them to drop prices and outsource to cheap production plants in Asia. As an executive of one of Wal-Mart's suppliers said, "We want clean air, clear water, good living conditions, the best health care in the world—yet we aren't willing to pay for anything manufactured under those restrictions."

The company has been investigated for hiring illegal aliens to do custodial work and locking them in the stores overnight. One custodian said he worked 16-hour days, excluding Christmas and New Year's, for $6.25 an hour and no benefits. The largest class action suit to ever be filed against a private employer is for Wal-Mart's company-wide sexual discrimination—women earn less money and fewer promotions.

The company's executives also donate large sums to the Republican Party. According to one watchdog group, Wal-Mart's political action committees and employees donated around $1.5 million to President Bush's re-election campaign last year, roughly four times the amount they donated to the Democrats.

Unions like UFCW fight on behalf of their members, whether it's for collective bargaining, eliminating dangerous working conditions, putting an end to discrimination, or improving pay. When it comes to a company like Wal-Mart, workers need to be able to play hardball. With the company's current "one-on-one" approach (i.e. third parties make it less personal), that can't be done.

To extend rights to Wal-Mart workers—to give unions the working room they need—the retailer is going to need to make a few concessions, most notably raising prices to pay workers a fair working wage.

Even the most idealistic people, those who denounce the retail giant or deny ever entering its doors, are quietly loyal customers. While it's hard to resist a good bargain, we have to remember the negative effects it has on our community, as well as on workers and communities everywhere.

Though a walk out by workers may be unfeasible, perhaps a grand-scale, day long publicized boycott of Wal-Mart would show the company that the public won't stand for its abuse of workers and suppliers. Even a strong public showing of support through letter-writing campaigns would be a positive step, and an indication for Wal-Mart that people are unhappy.

Unfortunately, many in the public have been transformed into virtual "consumer whores," seeking the next bargain regardless of the wider social cost. But we can dream, right?

The death of Hunter S. Thompson

His work was, in a word, outrageous.

Hunter S. Thompson was one of the first practitioners of so-called "gonzo journalism," wherein the reporter became the focal point of the story. Leaving traditional journalistic ethics like objectivity behind, Thompson's writing aimed to reveal truths, not just facts. Journalists questioned his methods but envied his work.

Thompson's early 1970s political writing in Rolling Stone introduced his voice to a national audience, re-energizing what was then straightlaced and boring political criticism, and the psychedelic *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas* became his most famous work.

The man—an eccentric, hard drinking, habitual drug user—became a caricature of himself in recent years, but he leaves a legacy of astonishing work that few will be able to match.

Editorial topics are decided at weekly editorial meetings and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of all staff members.

Don't like what you read? Write us, or write for us.
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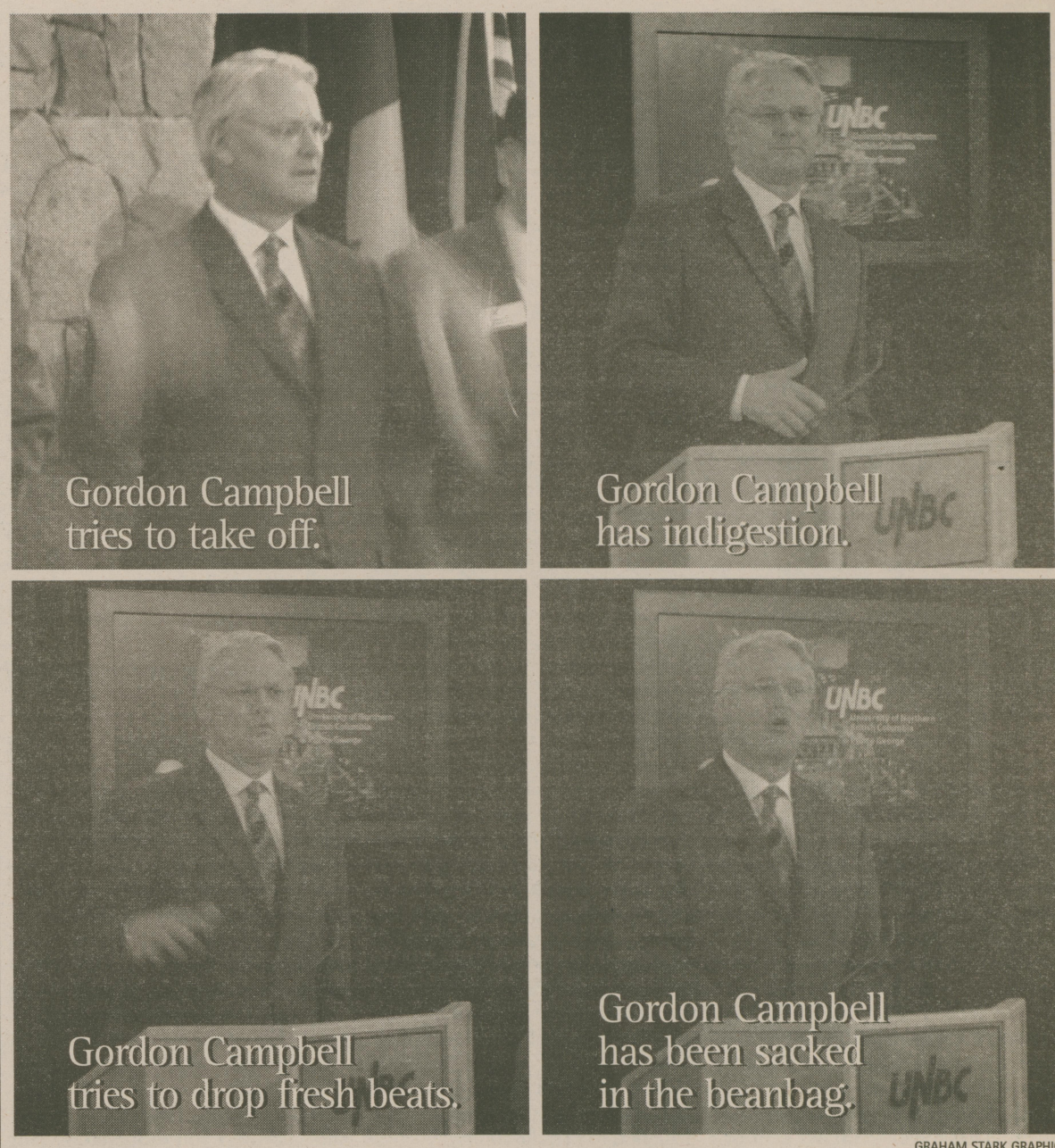
Gordon Campbell tries to take off.
Gordon Campbell has indigestion.
Gordon Campbell tries to drop fresh beats.
Gordon Campbell has been sacked in the beanbag.
UNBC

GRAHAM STARK GRAPHIC

The many faces of our Premier.

LETTERS

Abortion debate disrespectful

Hopefully this obnoxious abortion debate can finally die. Never in my time at UVic have I seen such an intolerant and reactionary display than what I saw in the last few weeks. The pro-choice group acted totally disrespectful to those who did not share their view. What started out as a reasonable request turned into a circus regarding UVSS changing its pro-choice stance to a neutral one because its current stance conflicted with some members' fundamental beliefs. What is wrong with that? Could we not have a mature discussion about it? Instead, pro-lifers on campus were accused of being Christian nut-jobs whose only motive was to control a woman's body to further their religious and patriarchal agenda, and other such nonsense. People, like me, who were pro-choice and were not absolutely outraged by this were called "pro-life sympathizers." An hour or so before the vote, a group of pro-choice cheerleaders told a crowd "Vote! Make your voice heard!" Yeah, right. Make your voice heard, unless you disagree with us. In that case, sit down and shut the hell up!

Andrew Campbell

Peeping thongs website rightly exposed

The Anti-Violence Project would like to thank *the Martlet* for exposing the thong underwear website in their story "Voyeurism at UVic" (Feb. 3). We agree with the Women's Centre in their assessment of this behavior as a form of sexualized violence. Posting photographs of women without their consent is not only insulting and degrading, but also an extreme invasion of privacy. Women, and men for that matter, should be able to wear whatever they want without fear of being secretly photographed and exposed on a public website.

We were also disappointed to hear about this website two weeks after it was initially revealed to Campus Security Services. We believe that since we are UVic's sexual assault centre, we should have been notified about the website sooner. Furthermore, we were disappointed to read David Clode's comments in *the Times Colonist* saying, "Their choice of attire is their choice. I can't imagine that you don't know what the effect is of how you dress." This comment relates to the old myth that says a woman who is scantily clad is "asking for it." Clode's comments were disheartening since, as head of student services, he is responsible for ensuring and supporting a non-threatening environment for UVic students. We believe that remarks like Mr. Clode's fuel the fire that has historically allowed sexualized violence to remain a part of our society. It's time for us to recognize that survivors of sexualized violence are not the ones to blame.

Tammie Jeppesen, Co-coordinator of the Anti-Violence Project

Revisiting religious conflict

Steve Weatherbe is thinking with his heart in his article "Usual religious falsehoods" (*the Martlet*, Feb. 10). Firstly, the claim that religion cannot be blamed for killing done in its name illustrates that Weatherbe either hasn't read the citations in my article or has chosen to ignore large chunks of the most-read books on the planet. The obvious response is that mainstream religious texts demand said killing of non-believers, proselytizers etc. Most, but not all, ignore these passages.

Listing conflicts perpetrated by atheist despots was a common feature of all responses and logically pathetic. A quote was given to me that sums up my point very well: "With or without religion, good people can behave well and bad people can do evil—but for good people to do evil, that takes religion." S. Weinberg (Nobel Laureate). I don't believe (or claim) that getting rid of religion will get rid of all injustice and violence, just a good portion.

Weatherbe's comparison of religion and science is laughable. In short, science is a protocol of scrutiny and tentative acceptance or total rejection of theories, while religion purveys explicit rules—an unavoidable difference.

Weatherbe's argument becomes fatally confused at the end as he smears propositions, ethics and beliefs into one big mess. And yes Steve, I believe that a nuclear catastrophe should be averted, which is a belief, not a proposition.

Dave Psutka

No guilt for Groovefest article

Dear UVSS Women's Centre:

I won't feel guilty about using what's apparently the language of "victimization" in my article, "Surprises at Groovefest" (Feb. 3, *the Martlet*). I'm having difficulty seeing who I'm unfairly singling out and being overly cruel to when I remind readers that not everyone has the opportunity to attend events like Groovefest. Now that I think about it, I'm regretting even mentioning that Groovefest donates profits to local groups at all. Perhaps I should have re-worded that statement to say something like "I don't want to speak for the promoters of Groovefest, so on behalf of myself, Melanie Greene the Transphobic, thanks for going out to Groovefest and supporting a good cause."

Also, I said Groovefest was held on the 12th of February "as a symbol of disdain towards the heterosexual consumer holiday," not just as a symbol of disdain. From my point of view, this is exactly what you repeated in your response.

So thanks for the lack of appreciation for trying to promote your event in a well-rounded light that was not only shining on the "transsexuals, transgendered and other gender blurring folks," but also trying to invite those who don't so easily fall into these categories. Next time, I'll be more exclusionary.

Melanie Greene

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Death! Mayhem! Destruction!

Magazines are using fear factor tactics to get you to buy

by Erika Van Winden

If you don't read this article right now, your soul will perish. Or so many magazine covers tell you.

It seems like each month magazines are trying harder to increase profit margins by heightening the level of fear they instill in the minds of readers. In truth, I find some headlines funny, but others are kind of sad. I'm not saying magazines should be removed from the stands or their writers should be jailed—but I do think it is important to realize what factors make people buy them.

Magazines blow their headlines way out of proportion. It is getting to the point where adrenaline junkies can go out and read magazine covers, not buy them, then see if they can survive in life without being given the answer to personal problems that they didn't previously know they had.

For example, on the Feb. 28 cover of *Firsts Magazine* (for women on the go), the large headline in the top right corner asks, "Do you wake up tired?" Despite the fact that it's normal to wake up sleepy, the headline continues on to say that if your answer is "yes," you might have a serious sleeping disorder that should be dealt with immediately. Incidentally, the easiest way to cure yourself of this deadly disorder is to buy the magazine.

If life looks dim because of headlines, *Ladies' Home Journal* has the solution. Unfortunately, it's a business tactic. First, it rings the alarm by showing how to "keep women's No. 1 killer at bay" and by pointing out a health alert on "food that kills." Then, in the March 2005 issue, it changes direction and recognizes the importance of living a life of no-worries by giving six simple steps to supersizing your happiness. A good idea, since living in a world of killer food does not score high on the happy scale. Their intentions are blatantly obvious when they tell us to be paranoid and then give step-by-step instructions on how to exercise a natural human emotion such as happiness. It's hard not to notice such a manipulative business approach.

Also, why is it illegal to threaten someone if magazines tell millions of people that their life will be in danger if they don't buy the magazine? To demonstrate, *Cosmopolitan* has gone out of its way to warn women of a certain emotion that "can endanger your life." Of course, I didn't buy it. Nor did I flip through its pages to discover what demonic self-destructing emotion I could possibly possess. Does this mean I will die when I'm 30? Maybe I'll die even younger. The issue is dated March 2005, so what will happen to me if I don't read it by April 1?

Maybe *Cosmopolitan* is right. Maybe it's a sign that I should buy it right now, before it's too late.

Challenging public medicare

Disadvantaged groups should be wary of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms

by Jon Chapnick

With all the recent talk about the Charter of Rights and Freedoms in the same-sex marriage debate, you'd think that the Charter was Canada's great protector of human rights.

Maybe, but the upcoming Supreme Court of Canada decision in Chaoulli c. Québec (Procureur général) may show a different side of the Charter. The case involves the claim that restricting the purchase of private health insurance is a violation of the Charter right to life, liberty and security of the person, and it reminds me of a short essay written by the dean of UVic's law school almost two decades ago.

The essay explained that, since Charter ideology equates "liberty" with freedom from governmental interference, the pursuit of liberty under the Charter favours the expansion of "free" markets and limitation of the state's regulatory and redistributive intervention in our lives. As a result, the nature of Charter rights reflects a "systemic bias" against socially and economically disadvantaged Canadians whose liberty may be better protected by government regulation and redistribution than by the market. According to the essay, although the Charter has become a symbol of equality, freedom and social justice, it is actually more likely to undermine than to advance the interests of the poorest and most vulnerable members of our society.

Why is this connected to the Chaoulli challenge to medicare restrictions? The link exists because the public health care system is the paradigmatic form of state "interference" in our lives. It regulates the provision of medical services and distributes health care resources on the basis of need rather than ability-to-pay. It operates as a constraint on individual autonomy by restricting our "liberty" to use personal wealth and power to acquire treatment.

In light of our law dean's essay, it is therefore not surprising that a Charter claim now threatens to expand the zone of the market into public medicare by challenging restrictions on individual freedom to purchase private health insurance to pay for publicly funded medical services. It is also no surprise that such a challenge poses significant risks to socially and economically disadvantaged citizens.

Removing restrictions on the private purchase of medical services would create a parallel private health sector that would exclude disadvantaged individuals by giving priority to the health concerns of those most willing and able to pay for treatment. In addition, private health insurers would likely demand higher premiums from low-income people since they are at greater risk of disease and ill health.

But a parallel private health sector is not only unlikely to serve Canada's poor, vulnerable and disempowered—it could damage the public health system on which they will continue to be solely reliant. A recent review of medicare programs in several of the 30 countries that make up the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development suggests that a parallel private sector may draw resources out of the public system. It also indicates that public sector waiting lists and times are longer in countries with parallel private systems.

Quebec's Superior Court and Court of Appeal invoked some of these risks in their rejections of the Charter claim for private health insurance. However, one wonders what the Supreme Court of Canada will decide.

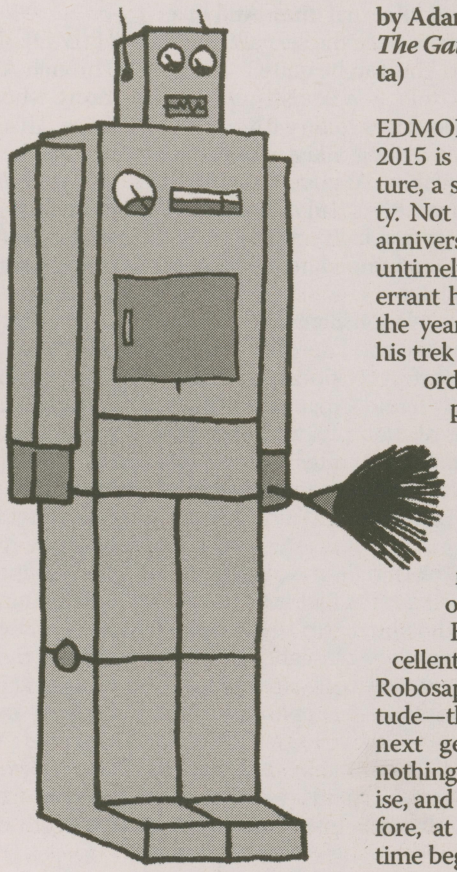
Supreme Court Charter decisions have been unkind to vulnerable and disadvantaged Canadians in the past. They have protected the "right" to expose young people to tobacco advertising, defended the "freedom" to publish hate literature that discriminates against minorities, and "liberalized" sexual assault legislation to provide less protection for victimized women.

Charter decisions, therefore, have often reinforced prevailing social, economic and institutional patterns and structures of oppression, inequality and injustice.

The irony is painfully clear. The Charter was intended to protect Canadians from government infringement of our rights and freedoms. The question remains, however: who will protect us from the Charter?

Robots nice, but no butler-tanks

'We probably will have housekeeping robots cleaning up after us in 2015'



GRAHAM STARK GRAPHIC

by Adam Rozenhart
***The Gateway* (University of Alberta)**

EDMONTON (CUP)—The year 2015 is now, and will be in the future, a significant year for humanity. Not only will it mark the 13th anniversary of Robert Zemeckis's untimely demise at the hands of an errant hoverboard prototype—and the year that Marty McFly makes his trek to a futuristic Hill Valley in order to thwart a bank robbery perpetrated by Griff Tannen—but it is also, at least according to the predictions of about 2,600 leading experts and scientists in Japan, the year by which robots will be doing most of our household chores.

But in spite of reports of excellent sales of those delightful Robosapien toys, this familiar platitude—that robots will become the next generation of servants—is nothing more than an empty promise, and one that we've all heard before, at least in some form, since time began in the early 1940s.

Those were heady days, weren't they? The Allies had Hitler and his German army on the retreat, yet we still had the time to stand back, look at ourselves, and say: "Soon, every living room in the world will have a tank in it—you know, doing laundry, watching TV and firing 20-millimetre shells at the kids when they start acting up."

Then, the war ended, our soldiers returned home, and no one—not even Truman himself—had a butler-tank to fetch him his early-evening scotch or blow his noisy son's head off when guests were over.

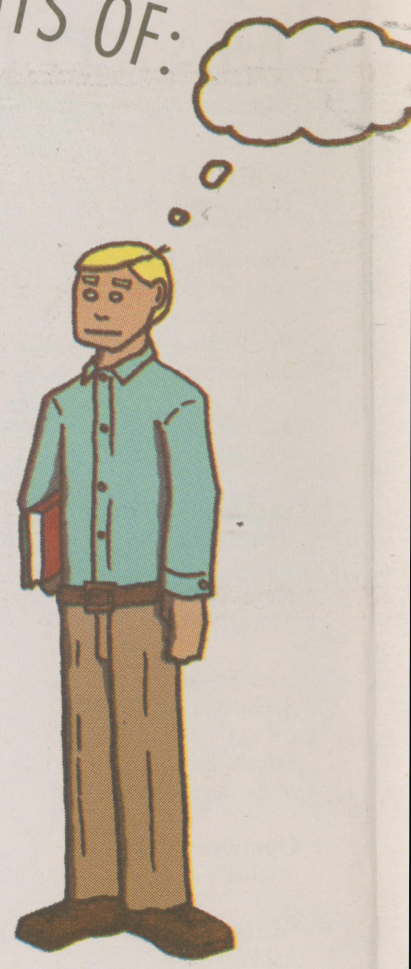
But humanity has entered something of a technological renaissance. Though we have so far been unable to actually manufacture the Orgasmatron booths featured in Woody Allen's 1973 film *Sleeper*, old ideas are being mixed with new ones and scientists are coming up with some excitingly novel human-assisting technology.

Besides the standard MRIs, X-ray machines and other human-helping contraptions, companies like Sony have created robot dogs capable of imitating other canines without the mess—or love and warmth—of the real thing. And if you're one of those people without any friends, Wow Wee toys created the fantastic Robosapien to help fill the void. Sure, it won't cook you dinner or anything like that, but it'll really annoy you after a short while—just like real people.

But I suppose 10 years is a long way from now. Who am I to disagree with 2,600 leading Japanese experts and scientists, anyhow? We probably will have housekeeping robots cleaning up after us in 2015. And if that's possible, then maybe it's also possible to build a time machine out of a stainless steel car, go back in time, and stop Robert Zemeckis from riding that hoverboard prototype over—and eventually into—that abandoned old folks' home filled with rusty nails and frayed power cords.

Or maybe it's possible that robots are actually really stupid and boring toys, and while they may make children clap with glee at their stilted capering, the rest of humanity is out there, in the real world, being productive, and hopefully trying to cook up some kind of butler-tank prototype.

SPRING. WHEN A YOUNG PERSON'S FANCY TURNS TO THOUGHTS OF:



ASEXUALITY: ORIENTATION OF DISORIENTATIO

by Candice Vallentin
***The Ubyssey* (University of British Columbia)**

VANCOUVER (CUP) — Asexuality. After recently hearing of this interesting concept for the first time, I thought I would see if the public had any more of an idea than I did.

"Do you know what asexuality is?" I asked random strangers on the corner of Granville and Robson one night. Blank faces stared back at me. "Ummmmmmm, ahhhh, huh?"

Although many had no idea, I did get some creative answers. "Someone who masturbates, loves themselves," an old man responded proudly. "Temporary disillusionment," a young woman told me, arching her eyebrow, looking clever. "Yup. When you are neither male nor female, or when you exhibit signs of both," a 28-year-old university student responded. My personal favourite was from a fellow *Ubyssey* writer: "Go talk to someone who's been married for 20 years."

AVEN: THE ASEXUAL VISIBILITY AND EDUCATION NETWORK

To clear up the confusion, I called up David Jay, the founder of the AVEN website (www.asexuality.org), otherwise known as the Asexual Visibility and Education Network.

Jay, a 22-year-old graduate of sociology and physics, currently living in St. Louis, founded the website in 2001. According to Jay, an asexual person is one who does not experience sexual attraction and does not pursue a partner sexually. He's careful to point out that this isn't a conscious choice and has nothing to do with abstinence or celibacy. "It's not that we have a problem with sex or think it's bad or dirty," he says. "There's just no interest."

But clarifying the actual definition of asexuality is difficult because, as shown on the forums on his website, those who identify as "asexual" do so for varied reasons and lead very different lifestyles from each other. Some asexuals have experimented with sexual relations or were involved in relationships with sexual people before they discovered they were asexual. Others have never had any sexual experience.

For Jay, sexual interest was just never there. He tells me of his early school days, when his friends first began talking about crushes. Jay just didn't relate: "But what are you getting at? What's the difference between 'like,' and 'like like?'" he laughs. At first, it wasn't an issue. People just assumed he was a late bloomer or introverted. He came from an accepting school that spoke about sexuality early on and accepted gay and sexual students. "But there wasn't a discussion of asexuality as an identity," he recalls.

When he finally heard about asexuality in passing during a conference on lesbian, gay, bisexual diversity, he knew he wanted to start the website. "My goal was to create some kind of community," he says enthusiastically. Soon after, he started receiving e-mails asking him all sorts of questions. "People just really wanted to talk about it."

THE OFFICIAL NON-LIBIDOISM SOCIETY

Another website promoting asexuality, The Official Non-Libidoism Society (www.theofficialasexualsociety.com), was founded by Geraldine Levi in 2000. Levi's definition of an asexual is "someone who is born without sexual feelings." This website promotes asexuality, informs readers with advice based on Levi's life experiences, and posts life stories of other asexuals for support.

But the website isn't Levi's only claim to fame. The 24-year-old comedian, writer, actor, singer and painter from Arnhem, Holland, has been performing a one-woman comic musical since she was 16.

"In those shows, I often turn the subject to sexualities, trying to make people understand things via the power of laughter and music," she says. Lately, she has become frustrated with the lack of information on asexuality beyond that of plants. "I wasn't green last time I looked into the mirror!" she says. Her next big projects include her book *Strangers in a Strange Land* that will be published in the spring of next year, and a sitcom featuring asexual, bisexual, lesbian and gay characters to further promote understanding. *Will and Grace* fans, brace yourselves!

LOVE WITHOUT SEX?

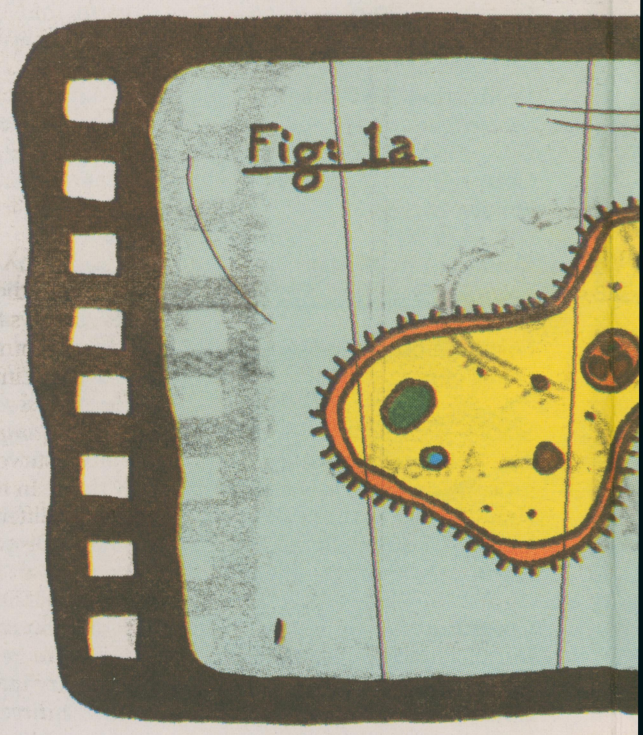
Asexuals don't want to be known as sexually repressed, frigid people. Some asexuals want relationships, simply non-sexual ones. And in a world obsessed with sex since the sexual revolution of the '60s, this can be quite challenging.

"All I wanted from love was to be with someone," Levi writes. "A hug, a kiss, a dance, sharing moments together." Although Levi is a fun, charismatic woman, she's had difficulties with relationships. Her first high school boyfriend of three years dumped her because of her unwillingness to have sex.

After this, she had a relationship with a gay man. "He really loved me and I deeply loved him," she recalls. "A perfect relationship without sex." But he eventually found a man and left her too. Her most recent relationship, with a woman she met one night at a gay bar after having performed one of her stand-up comedy shows, failed for different reasons: the girl's mother did not approve.

As for Jay, he isn't in love right now, although he would like to be. He admits that he is more attracted to women than men, explaining that some asexuals may identify as straight-sexual or gay-sexual—they are non-sexually attracted to members of the opposite sex as opposed to their own sex or vice-versa.

The bottom line is that a romantic relationship can take place without sexual endeavours. Jay has "made out" with someone before but has never gone farther because "it just doesn't make sense" to him. As for arousal, everything works down there, but it's never really directed at anyone—he just sees this as a mechanical annoyance.

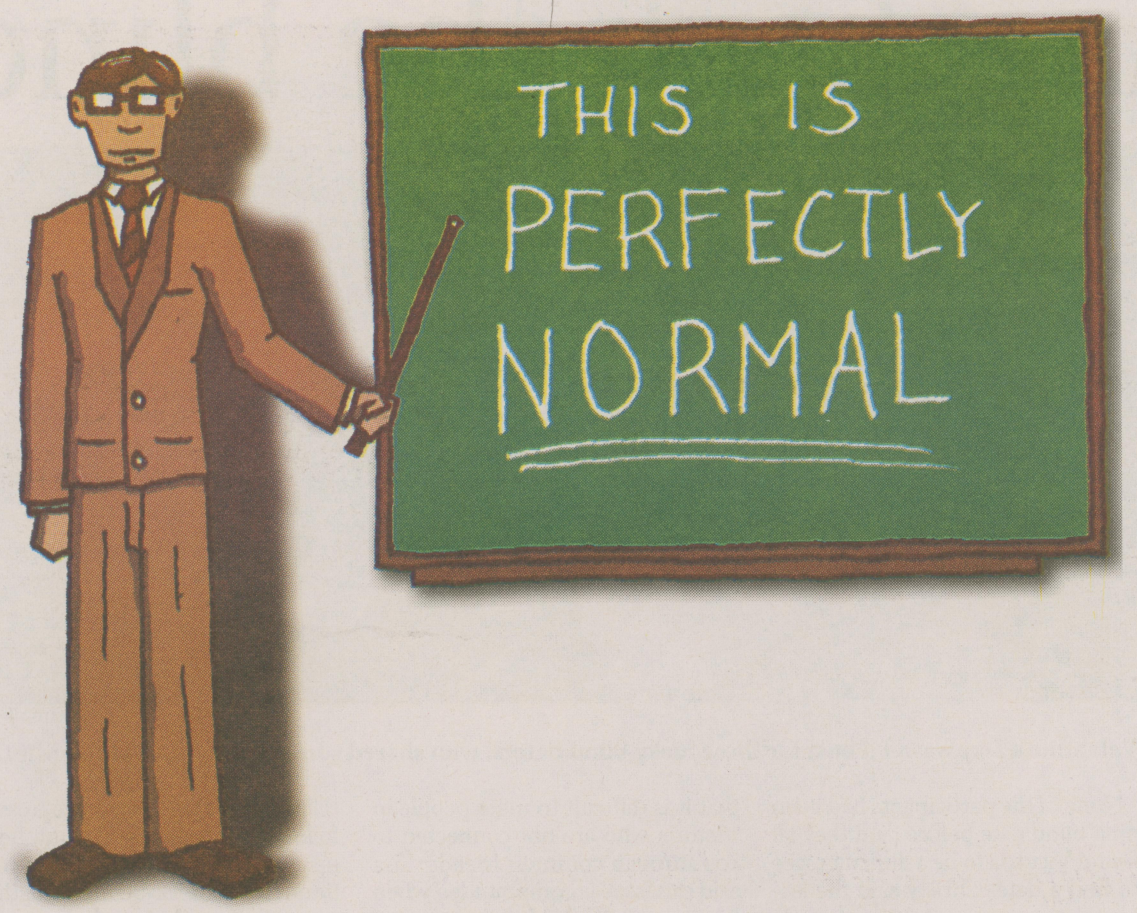


THE DOUBLE AGENT

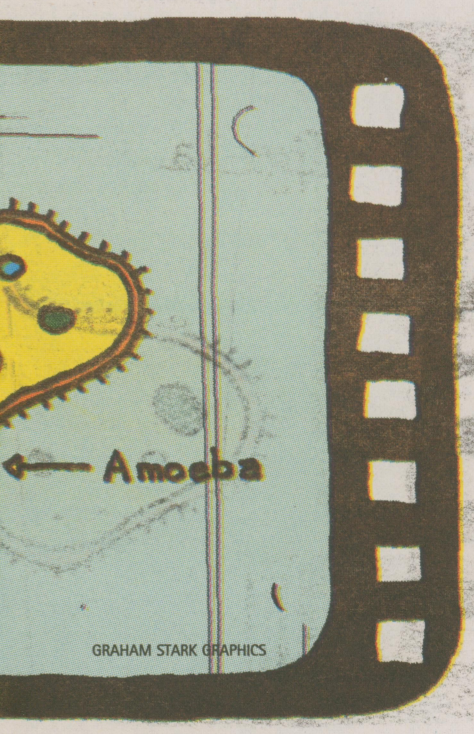
Through AVEN, I found Keith Walker, 32, from Texas, who has been on both sides of the sexual fence. This articulate, witty man has quite the resume: he worked in school cafeterias through college, got a degree in journalism, became a journalist, got bored, became a stock broker, got stressed out, and then decided he really just enjoyed serving lunches. Two years ago, he found the AVEN website and realized he was asexual last year. Before he realized his orientation, he struggled with the dating game as a non-sexual person for at least 20 years. He admits that using the "It's not you, it's me" line most of his life caused problems.

"If I had a dollar for every argument I'd gotten into," he laughs. "But it's true, when someone says that it sounds like they're cheating." At one point, he resorted to using religion as an excuse. "But having no interest one way or another, that is something people just don't understand," he says. "They just tell me I'm not doing it right."

Here's the kicker: Walker was married for six years, and although he loved her, sex—or lack thereof—became an issue. She, along with many other people, believes he is gay. But for Walker, sex just seems very clinical. Even pornography just doesn't do anything for him. He currently lives with another man he met at a local bar one



ON? NEW UNDERSTANDING IS GROWING FOR THOSE WHO SIMPLY WANT TO KEEP THEIR HANDS TO THEMSELVES



ight who, coincidentally, is also a member of
VEN. "I've never felt so comfortable with
nyone else," he tells me.

Skepticism is a major issue all asexuals have to
eal with on a regular basis. "I don't mind if you
ave serious doubts," Walker tells me. "Just don't
y to change me to your conception of what I
eed to be."

SEX ONCE A DAY KEEPS THE DOCTORS AWAY

According to asexuals, discrimination against the
ssue of asexuality boils down to two challenges:
isbelief and skepticism.

When I told the people I interviewed on
Granville and Robson the AVEN definition of
sexuality, responses varied from shock ("Is that
ossible?" and "With their own free will?") to
nisunderstanding ("Oh, like nuns" or "Well,
hey're just shy"). And then there was the token,
That must be a chemical imbalance."

When I asked Jay what causes asexuality, he
rgued that the causes are "just as mysterious as
he causes of heterosexuality or homosexuality."

I wanted an academic perspective. When I
ontacted Pierre Assalian, president of the 17th
World Congress of Sexuality to be held this
ummer in Montreal, he told me that asexuality
s part of sexual dysfunctions and referred me to
number of sex therapists in Vancouver.

Rosemary Basson, a consultant for sexual
nedicine at Vancouver General Hospital and a
rofessor of psychiatry at the University of
British Columbia, agreed.

She points out that, when referring to sexual disorders, the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders is genitally focused because it is difficult to pinpoint other factors to rate sexual desire. Basson explains the three main factors that are often used to consider disorders: "When erotic stimuli fail to trigger desire; and during sexual activity, potentially useful stimuli fail to trigger arousal and desire; and when there is distress."

SEXY SCIENCE

Although the World Association for Sexuality says there is no official expert on asexuality, Anthony F. Bogaert comes close. He completed an intensive study, *Asexuality: Prevalence and Associated Factors in a National Probability Sample*, based on a question asked in a 1994 survey of sexuality in Britain.

In his study, Bogaert begins by explaining the difference between Hypoactive Sexual Desire Disorder (or Sexual Aversion Disorder) and asexuality: "In both sexual aversion disorder and HSDD, there usually is a sexual orientation toward partners of either or both genders, but there is either an aversion for genital contact with these partners or a low sexual desire for these partners."

Bogaert notes that asexuals, on the other hand, seem to be sexually un-attracted to either sex and thus do not fit in with these disorders. As for the causes of asexuality, although he has explored a variety of options, there isn't enough data to prove anything in particular. He classifies asexuality as another orientation along with homosexuality and heterosexuality. One of the main questions he focuses on in his study is the prevalence of asexuality.

The survey asked approximately 18,600 people in Britain questions relating to sexuality. The results were impressive. A total of 195 people responded, "I have never felt sexually attracted to anyone." This constitutes approximately 1.05 per cent of the respondents. But he also concludes that those willing to participate in sexual surveys have a tendency to be more sexually experienced and active than those who do not, and thus with a refusal rate of 30 per cent, it is highly likely that the actual asexual population may have been underrepresented in the survey.

As a result, it is still unclear what percentage of the population is asexual. A recent poll conducted on the Internet by CNN asking "How would you categorize yourself?" found that six per cent claimed to be asexual, out of 100,000 votes.

The lack of research on asexuality has created a limited, questionable amount of information that leads to confusion and misunderstanding.

ORIENTATION OF DISORIENTATION?

But the lack of proper science isn't the only reason people are confused or ignorant about asexuality. There is even debate within the online asexual community about what constitutes the

definition of "asexuality." Many different terms like semi-sexual and non-libidoism are being thrown around, while others still use the term "amoeba" as an ironic comment to reclaim their asexuality. While there doesn't seem to be a strict definition—perhaps because sexual experience doesn't seem to be a proper measure of sexual orientation in this case—others aren't even sure if it is in fact an "orientation."

After speaking with a few asexuals about their sex lives and relationships, I asked how they would like to change or improve society's perspective on asexuality.

Walker replied with an honest plea: "I would like it to be acknowledged that not having sex is perfectly okay." Jay says that we first need to establish a dialogue so that the tough questions can be asked, even if there aren't answers right away.

The amount of research done on the subject of asexuality to date is pitiful. Young asexuals, who grow up in a world where hormones are constantly advertised as hot, sweaty bodies like Britney Spears, are forced to question their identity and sanity and sometimes force themselves to commit to non-consenting acts.

Basson said it clearly: if there is distress, there may be a disorder.

In an era of diversity and acceptance, where gay men and lesbians in most of Canada can proclaim their devout love to each other under the oath of marriage, it should be acknowledged that there is a community of people that don't think about sex, want sex or ever intend to have sex.

"Some of us have never had sex, others may have dabbled, still others might have put in years of community service, yet we all still identify as asexual," Walker writes under the screen name KAW1431, responding to a thread on the AVEN site that asks "Is Asexuality Really an Orientation?" Out of 54 votes, only 70 per cent think it is. Some suggest it is a disorientation, while others believe that, since it isn't a sexual orientation, it should have a category of its own. Jay's answer is simpler and more direct.

"Anyone who uses the term asexual to describe themselves, and finds it useful to do so, is asexual."

Bringing back the blind date

by Carla Rae Mellott

Most people I know don't date. The word "date" itself seems to inspire little more than nervous snickers. Mention the phrase "blind date" and people look at you like you just popped open a cherry cola and told someone that their "daddy looks really jive." With countless high-tech means of meeting people these days, who goes on blind dates anymore?

This Valentine's Day, I decided it was time to re-invigorate the old-school blind date. As I started asking around for potential daters, I was very surprised by the response—not only did I have ample participants, but the restaurants I contacted were excited too. Both Guru and the Mint were keen to give up a table and free dinner to help me indulge in my little experiment.

My criteria for selecting the couples were straightforward—I had to like them or at least know someone who liked them. In the end, I sent Christy* and Beverly on a date at Guru and Jesse and Lisa on a date at the Mint. As the day approached, I think I was more nervous than the couples themselves. I had high expectations. I was hoping for love at first sight, or at the very least to start a revolution of old-school blind dating in Victoria—the "Luddite Dating Revolution."

CARLA MELLOTT PHOTO

Valentine's Day wasn't a bust for these lucky blind daters, who shared some quality time at the Mint.

None of the participants had been on a blind date before, and they all found Victoria to be a difficult place to find a date. Christy said the lesbian dating scene in Victoria is pretty grim.

"Victoria is supposedly the lesbian capital of Canada . . . but a lot of [lesbians] are married off, so that really decreases the dating pool." Lisa agreed. "There are a lot of married couples [in Victoria] and a lot of couples who come here as couples."

Then there is the whole small town bit. Both Jesse and Lisa agreed that it is difficult to meet people in Victoria who are not connected to you through common friends. Lisa said this issue is compounded when you spend most of your time on campus. "When you're part of the university, that's generally the community that you associate with . . . it's quite difficult to break out of that, to meet new people who haven't dated your friends and who aren't part of the gossip circle."

True enough, but maybe it's not just a factor of who is available but rather that we just don't know how to date anymore. It seems like most relationships these days progress as follows: get drunk, make out, hook up, wake up, and if this pattern continues for some ill-defined length of time, all of a sudden you're a couple. "It seems backwards to ask someone on a date after you've already made out with them and seen them with their clothes in various states of disarray," said Jesse.

So what are we to do then? How can we get the Luddite Dating Revolution started? First I think we need to learn how to have successful dates. Lisa said that a successful date is all about expectations. "I think people have a misconception that if you go on a date you have to start having [your date's] babies, but there is something to be said for just going out and having a good time with someone."

Doing something a bit offbeat doesn't hurt either. Beverly described her first date with a woman who eventually became her girlfriend. "She actually suffered through 110 C heat doing [Bikram's] yoga for 90 minutes. Afterwards she said, 'I think you hate me, why did you put me through this?' . . . But I thought it was a good way to get hot and sweaty with someone on the first date."

Speaking of hot and sweaty . . . er . . . I mean dates, how did my blind-date experiment fare? All participants agreed that they would go on a blind date again, perhaps because blind dates are in some ways easier than regular dates. "[Going on a blind date] is kind of an ice-breaker in itself because you share this common thing that you've decided to do something unusual and funny," Jesse observed.

I'm sure the part you've all been waiting for, however, is finding out whether either of my blind dates inspired—as I had hoped—love at first sight. While my lesbian couple both agreed that they might see each other around campus, they had not made plans for a future date. As for my straight couple, let's just say Valentine's Day wasn't a write-off for everybody. Yes! Let the Luddite Dating Revolution begin!

**name changed to protect participant's identity.*

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Michele Pujol Room

A new Cinderella channels '50s couture

What: Royal Winnipeg Ballet's production of *A Cinderella Story*
Where: Royal Theatre (Victoria)
When: Feb. 25 & 26 @ 8p.m., and Feb. 26 @ 2p.m.
How Much: $36.50–$67.50

by Jane Griffith

The Royal Winnipeg Ballet has a large budget for costumes. It is not a small-potatoes dance studio where a mother or two glues sequins on spandex and returns it smelling of nicotine and cats. The Royal Winnipeg Ballet's (RWB) touring performance of *A Cinderella Story* is no exception: Dior-inspired haute couture of the 1950s clothes the dancers of *Cinderella*, a feat outshone only by the originality of the show itself. This particular show, of course, promises the rags-to-riches Cinderella myth we all know so well. A passive girl living in a dysfunctional family finds (with the help of a Houdini-inclined matriarch) a handsome mate, despite sibling rivalry and class struggles.

Now, RWB is taking a stab at the popular narrative, contributing unconventional and exciting elements to its rendition. First of all, the story is set in 1957. The main characters are plainly named "Bob" and "Nancy," sounding more like your parents' dull friends than the handsome stars of a fancy ball. Nancy, the Cinderella character, is obsessed with television, and her best friend is a dog. The dance movements, though ballet, are set to jazzy big band music, performed live by Ron Paley and a 22-piece band. The music was mostly written in the '20s and '30s by Richard Rodgers, as in Rodgers and Hammerstein. The costumes, as well, are anything but traditionally balletic.

"It was challenging," Anne Armit, the head of wardrobe for the RWB, says as she laughs about this show. While some dance performances require only detailed costumes for the few leads of the piece, even background dancers have unique costumes for this performance. Armit worked from the costume designs created by the award-winning costumer Sandra Woodall—her designs are modelled after the couture fashion of the 1950s, with long skirts and skinny-minny waistlines. The high fashion on which Woodall based her designs was popularized by designer Christian Dior.

Another influence is the couture designs of Cristobal Balenciaga. Armit describes his designs as "phenomenal" and one of the "strongest influences of couture without the recognition" that people such as Dior enjoyed. Feminists have argued that the 1950s couture designs were unconsciously created to limit a woman's mobility (particularly after the Second World War when women were working) and place her back in the home. Woodall had the challenge of taking such designs and creating a costume that a dancer could leap and spin in. Armit took Woodall's designs and ensured that the delicate, high-quality fabrics that went in to making the costumes could endure night after night of sweat and toil while the company toured Canada. Armit admits that the crew was very supportive of her task and says the experience was great.

One of the peculiar sources for fabric was a Mennonite store. There, Armit found material for some of the dancers that was durable, and supported the challenge of making these costumes stand up to the wear and tear of touring. Who knew a store supplying fabric to Anabaptists would be dealing costumes to a Cinderella ballet production?

With or without the Mennonite community's approval, the show continues. Choreographed by Val Caniparoli, *A Cinderella Story* is coming to Victoria this week and is sure to be a theatre experience full of surprises. As part of the Victoria Dance Series, it promises fashion that stars of the *America's Next Top Model* television show would envy. As well, the show includes live jazz and the always-amazing dancers of the Royal Winnipeg Ballet. You've got to give a "hoorah!" to anyone who stomps so defiantly (and rhythmically) on such a well-trodden narrative as Cinderella.

PROVIDED PHOTO

Costumer Sandra Woodall designed dance-centric '50s wear.

Vancouver duo Hamms it up

Who: Canned Hamm
When: Saturday, Feb. 26 @ 9 p.m.
Where: Logan's, 1821 Cook Street
How Much: $7

by Kevin Nakanishi

PROVIDED IMAGES

Sexy bastids Canned Hamm started in vaudeville/burlesque.

They wear outrageous pleather/vinyl costumes, gyrate to feverish techno rhythms, and chase after love handles and "seafood tacos" late into the night. No, I'm not talking about the collared-shirt-and-hair-wax set at Red Jacket—I'm talking about a dynamic duo of disco that's about to sex up Victoria. Ladies and gentlemen, meet Vancouver's very own Canned Hamm.

Composed of vocalists/songwriters Big Hamm and Little Hamm, Canned Hamm began life as a denim-clad vaudeville/burlesque outfit. In 2001, they released their debut, *Karazma!* The record spawned a North American tour and made diehard fans out of everyone from the New Pornographers to Nardwuar the Human Serviette, both of whom contributed to the Canned Hamm tribute album *Karazma Reimagined.*

The Hamms underwent a stylistic shift while recording their latest release, *Erotic Thriller*, which dropped earlier this month. Gone are the whimsical karaoke singalongs and piano ballads: *Erotic Thriller* pulses with disco beats, mirror ball synthesizers and sly innuendo. Like a disco AC/DC or Spinal Tap, the Hamms masterfully straddle the line between stupid and clever. When Big Hamm croons about X-large lovin', he titillates without getting obscene: "Some say the closer the bone the sweeter the meat / But I'm a real big boy and you're in for a treat."

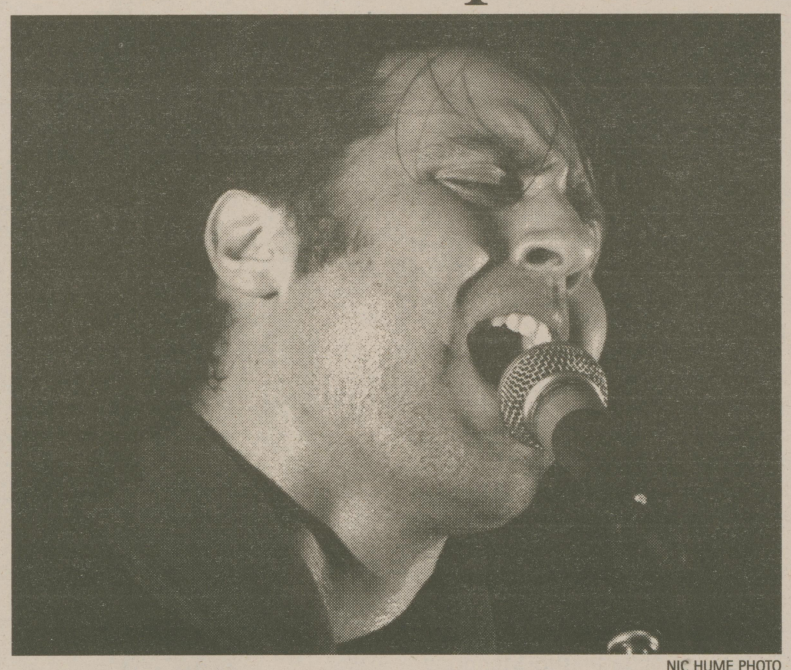
Of course, Big Hamm doesn't let his burliness interfere with putting on a killer show. When asked about the average Canned Hamm concert, Big Hamm gets indignant: "There is nothing average about Canned Hamm. Extremes are intrinsic in the act—Big Hamm is big, and Little Hamm is little." The extremes extend beyond size—these guys guarantee a sweat-drenched night of interactive disco madness. As Big Hamm claims, "You're gonna get lightness and darkness. We will put you through an emotional and physical wringer."

Of course, audience participation remains a big part of the Canned Hamm experience—prudes and killjoys need not apply. On Saturday night, sweat will drip, rumps will shake, and the Hamms will elicit full participation and interaction from the crowd. There are no barriers in the Canned Hamm experience. As Big Hamm promises, "We will touch you—literally, and figuratively." Erotic thriller, indeed.

BAND PROFILE | THE MARBLE INDEX

An ounce in the microphone

by Sacha Narine


NIC HUME PHOTO

Brad Germain howls like a done-getter into a puke-free mike.

"You're about 5–11, short brown hair, wear lots of fitted clothes, nothing really loose and baggy. Shoes that have square-ish toes. Usually a jean person, sometimes you go for the slacks." Brad Germain, singer and guitarist for the Marble Index, pauses before finishing his answer. "Coat-wise, I take you for one of those pea-jackets or a German army coat. Your hair's one of those shorter dos, like the Hollywood mess. Remember Brad Pitt in 1996?"

I've asked Germain to describe what I look like based solely on the sound of my voice over the phone, and he's giving my stupid question the ol' college try.

"How close was I?" he asks.

Like tourmates Boy, the Marble Index is verging on entering the mainstream. Whether or not that's a good thing is a matter of opinion, but they've just been nominated for a Juno for New Group of the Year. Germain sounds pleased, but not ecstatic.

"I think it's neat. Somebody's been paying attention, which is nice. But at the same time, I don't know if you really want to win because then you get this whole stigma that you have to live up to. The expectations rise, and you get put under the microscope in a whole different way."

Winning awards may be a mixed blessing, but the nomination has raised the band's profile considerably, and a win will bring them even more recognition.

Brad Germain, Ryan Tweedle and Adam Knickle formed the Marble Index in 2001 in Hamilton, Ont. They had all played in other bands, but none of them were pleased with how things were going. When Marble came together, the three musicians opted to swap instruments, with Germain abandoning bass and drums for guitar and vocals, Tweedle switching from guitar to bass, and Knickle from bass to drums. Germain had been working in a record store for several years, and his knowledge of music ("I like the Arcade Fire, LCD Soundsystem, Deerhoof, Blonde Redhead, Feist") matched his passion to write and perform.

"The difference with a three-piece," he says, "is that there's not much to hide behind. There's not a lot of room for mistakes."

When asked about the recent trends of retro, synth and '80s revival, Germain sounds wary.

"For some bands, if they can do it really well and it works, then I like it. If they're talented at what they do, they can usually assimilate that stuff into their routine and it comes off seamless. There are other bands who can't pull it off. They don't seem to have the appreciation, and they're just . . . trying to get in on [the trend]."

If he could choose, Germain would rather spend a party night with Jimi Hendrix than Marilyn Monroe or Sid Vicious. "I'm not into doing heroin, so that would cancel out Sid Vicious right away. And Marilyn . . . she's always seemed like damaged goods to me."

When playing a show in Stockton, England, a few weeks back, Germain had a definitive rock-and-roll moment. "About three-quarters of the way through the set, I puked on the microphone. It wasn't tons. It wasn't huge projectile vomit, but there was puke in the microphone. And I had to sing into it for three more songs."

On Monday night, Marble smoked a room full of tired weekday partiers with a raucous set full of hardcore howls, twangy vintage guitar and a kick-ass dance number by Germain himself, who shook ass all over Central Bar and Grill while non-rockstars looked on with envy. "Damn, that guy can move!" shouted one frenzied fan. While their studio sound is tight and inspired, it's the live show that brings Marble's echoic talent to the surface.

They're a cute married couple who sing to each other! Awesome!
PROVIDED PHOTO

There's a baby on the road!

Who: Mates of State, the Golden Republic
When: Monday, Feb. 28
Where: Lucky Bar
How Much: $12 advance

by Sean Patrick Sullivan

Organs are all the rage in indie-pop these days. But before the Organ and Metric came San Francisco's Mates of State, armed with nothing but a vintage organ, a drum kit and a pair of harmonizing vocals.

Mates of State's music is fun, feel-good and wonderfully hip. *The Martlet* reached the pair of musicians as they trekked through New Mexico, fresh off the first few shows of their new tour. The connection was ripe with static, but they sounded excited to be back on the road.

"It's amazing, just amazing," says drummer and vocalist Jason Hammel, his voice crackling in and out. "All of the shows have been total successes, and the music is as fun as it ever has been."

The husband-and-wife duo of Hammel and Kori Gardner formed in 1997, moving from their hometown in Kansas to the surf and sun of California. They broke into the college radio scene in 2000 with an EP and their first album, *My Solo Project*. Tours with bands such as the Strokes and Death Cab for Cutie followed, as well as two more albums: *My Constant Concern* and *Team Boo*.

Their songs are a mishmash of styles—a hint of '60s psychedelia and sometimes frantic drums, but also ballads interspersed with jangly organ bits. The two trade vocals back and forth over these creative, crashing drum beats and catchy organ riffs. Known for singing more to each other than the audience and trading knowing glances during shows, their marriage isn't at all hidden.

Heck, they've even got a baby on the road with them. Gardner gave birth six months ago to a baby girl, and, dedicated as they are, she and Hammel hired a nanny and got a hold of an RV to use for touring.

"It's different (to have the baby on the road), but it's actually kind of helpful in a way," says Hammel. "The baby's schedule is set in stone; when she needs to lay down, have a nap, eat, etc., it's all regimented enough so that it helps us keep a tighter schedule with everything else."

"There's a lot of sleep we lose, but I don't think we'd go out on the road without her."

The band's latest release, the *All Day* EP, is a bit of a departure from previous efforts: for the first time, there are additional musicians helping out.

"We made things a little more lush for the EP," says Hammel. "We added some guitar on a song (a first for the band!), had some fun—we even did a Bowie cover."

After this tour wraps up next month, the pair plans on "chilling" out for a bit before leaving for a European tour. "In the meantime we'll be riding our record and recording in late spring for a fall or early winter release," says Hammel.

Fans of local bands like the Raygun and Immaculate Machine shouldn't miss Mates of State on Monday at Lucky Bar.

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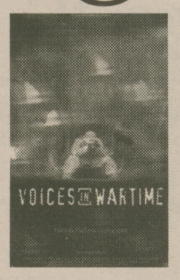
Hearing the *Voices in Wartime*



What: Film Screening – Voices in Wartime
When: Tuesday, March 1 @ 7 p.m.
Where: Hermann's Jazz Club, 753 View Street
How Much: Free

by Courtney Tait

When I envisioned an evening at Open Cinema, a local event that screens issue-driven, independent documentaries, the last thing I thought I'd feel was cozy.

Politically inspired? I hoped so. Mentally stimulated? Chances were good. But stepping into Hermann's Jazz Club—where the films are shown the first Tuesday of every month—is like re-entering your best friend's parents' basement: low ceilings, soft light, flower-print carpet and an old-fashioned bar. Add a screen, projector and tables glowing with tea lights, and Open Cinema makes the Odeon look like camping in the rain.

Launched in September 2003 by documentarian Mandy Leith, Open Cinema is a non-profit collaboration that provides an opportunity for locals to view documentaries not shown in mainstream theatres. Each screening is followed by an open and often lively discussion of the ideas presented in the documentary.

"I see film as a starting point, not an end in itself," says Leith. "Open Cinema is a catalyst for community, encouraging face-to-face interaction." The filmmakers often attend the screenings, bringing insight to a discussion that remains focused on the issues rather than the filmmaking process.

Open Cinema's March film is an advance screening of *Voices in Wartime*, a documentary by Seattle filmmaker Rick King that explores the presence and power of poetry in a war-steeped world. Where there has been war—the film reveals—there have been poets writing about it. The opening credits fade in and out of a cloud-filled sky that shifts to smoke. Startling footage of soldiers in combat is overlaid with the voice of Lt.-Gen. William Lennox, who asks, "What literary genre allows you to portray that [joy, elation, horror, fear] better than poetry?" This idea permeates the film, as poets from around the world discuss poetry's role in expressing and healing the emotions of war.

The film balances its perspective with compelling interviews: a third infantry soldier, a Vietnam vet, war historians and journalists share their combined understanding of war's effect on the human psyche. Graphic images of dead civilians are spliced with poetic text that resonates across the screen. Iraqi poets reveal opposing views of the American invasion. The words of Homer are juxtaposed with anti-poetic notions of Plato. And interspersed throughout are poets—known and unknown—reading their work.

The film continually shifts between the past and the present, reaching as far back as ancient Babylonia, and illuminating a poetic force that has existed since battles began. The fluid transitions from old black-and-white stills to frighteningly recent video clips speak to the sense of timelessness inherent in poetry.

Another highlight is footage of the exuberant reading at Lincoln Center in New York by Poets Against the War, a collective that began in protest of the 2003 U.S. invasion of Iraq. Poets such as Sam Hamill and Arthur Miller silenced the crowd with the weight of their words, revealing poetry's ability to extract—and convey—the essence of emotion. As Miller eloquently writes, "We have to stop speaking / In codes." Poetry, the film suggests, breaks through the coded language of war, replacing it with language that re-awakens our humanity.

Voices does not suggest that poetry can save the world or put an end to conflict. But it does give credit to a literary form that is fearless in its depiction of war, bringing fresh perspective to a topic that continues to pervade all aspects of life.

Executive producer Andrew Himes will be in attendance at the *Voices in Wartime* screening.

The Open Cinema schedule is online at www.opencinema.ca.

Arrive early for seats.

The same ol' Keanu

PROVIDED PHOTO

Keanu kills demons dead.

by Darrell Andersen

Ironic writing tries to milk some cheap laughs out of an otherwise uninspired script, but *Constantine* ends up being just plain laughable.

Keanu Reeves plays John Constantine, a kind of exorcist/paranormal detective. Since birth he's had the special gift to see what others could not. He can see humans possessed by demons and half-breed angels who walk among us on our "plane of existence." In order to redeem a sin he committed in the past and reserve his spot in heaven, Constantine does what he can to help maintain the balance between heaven and hell. How? By deporting those he finds in violation of the balance. Did I mention that he also has a terminal case of lung cancer? Apparently his chain-smoking habit has put a time limit on his plans, and some impending disastrous paranormal event is on the verge of happening nearby, just in time for Constantine to try and save the day. But don't worry—there really isn't that much suspense.

About the only thing this movie has going for it is cinematography and lighting. Some nice camera work and sharp editing raises the entertainment value to average. It's difficult to stomach most of what attempts to be spur-of-the-moment wit. The humour is timed in such a way that you can play the "let's say the one-liner before Keanu does" game. I couldn't tell if people were laughing at the actual joke or just laughing at its failure. There is a serious attempt to create dazzling special effects sequences, but as someone pointed out, many of the scenes in Hell look suspiciously similar to sequences from the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy.

While Constantine contemplates his fate, he hooks up with a hot detective played by Rachel Weisz, who never really does any detective work. She is, however, unwittingly involved in the proceeding events. Everything seems to just fall into place for Constantine, which is great for him because he probably wouldn't have been able to figure it out otherwise.

Keanu Reeves must be silently giggling to himself as he continues snag hefty paychecks for his acting. He plays exactly the same character we've seen in most of his other recent movies. Serious fans of Keanu might enjoy them, but for the rest of us, it's just a stale, monotonous performance. None of the supporting actors do much to help him out either, save a small appearance by the creepy Peter Stormare near the end of the film.

Constantine leaves much to be desired in acting, characters and script, and unfortunately doesn't offer much in the way of action-packed entertainment either.

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Celluloid Crimes

by Stephanie Bowen
and Sacha Narine

Two movie geeks, two opinions and one Canadian indie film. Feel the burn, good reader. Feel it.

STEPHANIE:
The Love Crimes of Gillian Guess is a postmodern romp through salaciousness. In with a bang (quite literally) and out with a meander through a surprisingly predictable past, *Guess* achieves infamy in the grand old tradition of illicit sex.

An acting juror in a high-profile Vancouver murder trial, it is unclear whether Gillian is the woo-er or woo-ee of the defendant, but one thing is certain: they engage, and are discovered, in some highly taboo activity.

Based on actual events, the filmmakers go out of their way to remind us that the term "actual events" means very little: the feature channels everything from *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* to *Basic Instinct*, lest we forget we are watching a highly constructed account of an ambiguous event. Scenes are repeated two or three times from different perspectives, the story is told out of sequence and Gillian appears on an unorthodox late-night TV show to plead her case.

This postmodernism lends *Gillian Guess* some of its only strength. The visual style and sheer luridness of its introduction will have you pinned (no pun intended), but gradually fascination will give way to confusion and possibly boredom. Part of the problem is Gillian's character itself. Tremendously acted by Joely Collins, Gillian unfortunately goes from being a media-savvy and empowered (if marginally sleazy) woman to playing the oh-so-predictable role of victim. Instead of allowing her to languish in self-produced spotlight heaven, the film feels the need to descend into the hell of both her childhood and current life. The shift from a haughty monologue, in which Gillian unapologetically assures us of her "hot ass," to the implication that she was actually taken advantage of, robs *The Love Crimes of Gillian Guess* of its continuity and its freshness.

Behind its tawdry exterior, *Gillian Guess* falls victim to the same old crimes.

SACHA:
This is not a complete film. It is, rather, four or five short films awkwardly combined, with timelines running in parallel, three actresses playing Gillian, and no way to hold it all together. Hugh Dillon does a superb job as Bobby Tomahawk, the cool-as-ice TV ratings whore, but Joely Collins made me consistently uncomfortable with her inconstancy of character and overwrought sexuality.

PROVIDED PHOTO

Dillon, left, and Collins tease out the lurid details on late-night TV.

Bruce McDonald is a talented director who gave us the funny and tragic *Hard Core Logo* (in which Dillon also starred). But here even McDonald's skill as a director can't elevate the film above Angus Fraser's messy, convoluted script and several weak performances.

There are a few highlights. The scenes with Gillian as a young girl or a teenager often capture the emotional weight that the rest of the film lacks. These younger actresses offer the reality and sincerity that Collins evades, albeit perhaps intentionally.

And a funny musical number in a diner-esque fast-food joint teased up more than a few laughs, all to a great track by Broken Social Scene.

Still, *The Love Crimes of Gillian Guess* reinforces the misconception that Canadian cinema is second-best when it comes to production values and talent. Check out McDonald's earlier films, or anything by Denys Arcand or Atom Egoyan if you need reassurance that Canadian cinema can be, and often is, bloody brilliant.

From C++ to hitting the high C

by Ami Dagan

As the folky, poppy tunes emanate from the stage, whispers circulate around the pub: "What's that song called?" Truthfully even the singer, Justin Hewitt, doesn't know. The untitled song resembles a mixture of Nick Drake's and John Mayer's style. It's catchy.

In the time he spent with local cover band Western Funk Rodeo, Hewitt, a UVic computer science grad, met, performed and partied with many musicians, and even an NHL star. On one occasion, ex-Calgary Flames forward Theo Fleury staggered on stage to bust out a lyric or two. WFR split up on New Year's Day.

Hewitt has since gone solo. With a guitar in his hand, the 24-year-old singer/songwriter enjoys singing about relationships, whether it's the obsessive love of a partner or the best of friendships. Surprisingly the young singer's lyrics are mature and relate well to his audience.

"A song may take a month or so [to compose]," says Hewitt. Oddly enough, Justin writes his lyrics, for the most part, in red ink. Why? "I don't know," he says. "Forcing myself to write, I come up with nothing. When you have passion," he remarks, "it flows."

With witty lyrics in "Side by Night," Hewitt's feel for balance is portrayed. By weighing out the positive and negative, his lyrics distinguish between the two: "Downstairs in the basement of my memory"—to the positive—"Upstairs in the attic of my memory." Although he hasn't yet produced a CD, Hewitt hopes to start recording soon. For the time being, his website (www.justinhewitt.com) showcases his music.

Every Sunday night at Darcy's Pub, you'll discover Hewitt performing for and mingling with the crowd. Justin shares his mike, so don't be afraid to hop on stage and sing with him. If you're too embarrassed, then go ahead and yell out "Chunky Soup!" Although the short tune is a spoof, it's certainly worth the few extra giggles.

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UVic alumnus Kazanowski off to Fame

by Chris Devauld

The Canadian Basketball Hall of Fame has added a new entry to its all-star list—former UVic student Gerald Kazanowski. While playing for UVic, Kaz, as his teammates called him, led the Vikes to a remarkable four consecutive championship titles.

"I remember choosing UVic because it already had a basketball legacy," Kaz recalled. "Coach Ken Shields provided excellent leadership, which enticed me to pursue my education on the Island."

As is the case with many NBA hopefuls, Kazanowski supported his basketball dreams with a solid education.

"Not only did UVic have a fantastic sports program, but their level of education was also top notch—my economics degree has been very helpful," he said.

But Kazanowski's story doesn't end with a bachelor's degree. He wasn't thrust out into the "real world" in the same way that most grads are—instead, he was given the chance to live every basketball fan's dream. In 1983, the Utah Jazz drafted Kazanowski in the seventh round.

"I made it to the team, but I wasn't really given the chance to play," Kazanowski admitted.

Whether as an all-star or as a bench warmer, most NBA hopefuls will take whatever they can grab. However, in a departure that could have spelled career suicide, Kazanowski left the NBA to seek out the unexplored regions of basketball.

"Even if you play in the NBA you have to love what you do.'" Kazanowski said. "If not, it just turns into another office job."

He said that looking back on it, he could have stuck with the NBA and that it might have worked, "but it just didn't seem like a realistic option." Kazanowski decided to leave for Europe and play with Spain. He said he travelled around and met an "amazing bunch of basketball players."

"I couldn't believe how often I came across players who made no money yet were way better than what I saw in the NBA," Kanazowski said.

Kazanowski's love for basketball is buried in his national achievements—he represented Canada at the 1984 and 1988 Olympic Games, played in three FIBA World Championships and participated in three World University Games.

"My most memorable moment was the 1983 World University tournament in Edmonton," Kazanowski said. "We played the American team, which consisted of legends such as Charles Barkley and Karl Malone. And we won. It was, of course, a well-deserved miracle."

The fact that the Canadians won against a more expensive, NBA-destined team is a nice reminder that talent precedes money.

"It's quite an honour to be placed in the Canadian Basketball Hall of Fame," Kazanowski said. "It shows what can happen when you pursue something you love not for money but for memories."

University sports students are subjected to even stricter competition within the now-global sports market. University-level sports demand strict discipline both on the court and in the library. And, as Kazonowski notes, UVic's message to him was one that he still carries today.

"Have fun in your sport. Enjoy it," he said. "You can reach a top level, but with a solid education and a realistic attitude, you can go far."

FILE PHOTO

In the early '80s, Kaz helped the Vikes to four titles.

Celebrity justice and the case of Dany Heatley

by John Mullin, *Arthur* (Trent University)

PETERBOROUGH, Ont. (CUP) — "I'm sorry for what I did. The mistake I made that night was speeding. This mistake will stay with me the rest of my life."

Those are the words of Atlanta Thrashers superstar Dany Heatley during his "trial" for the vehicular homicide of his friend and teammate Dan Snyder. Heatley, an MVP all-star, received a sentence of three years of probation and he must give 150 speeches about the harm of driving too fast.

Police officials in the case have suggested that Heatley may have been up to 132 kilometres per hour in a zone that was 55 kilometres per hour. Furthermore, tests revealed that Heatley had consumed some alcohol but not so much as to be a significant factor.

The maximum sentence Heatley could have received was 20 years in jail. But no one expected Dany Heatley to get anywhere near that —or even to see the inside of a prison cell.

What a case like this makes us all acutely aware of is that pro athletes, especially elite ones, have a different set of rules when it comes to legal matters such as this. If the same circumstances had applied to a private citizen, do you think they would have gotten off with less than a slap on the wrist? Of course not.

This case shoves that great truth into our consciousness. We all expected that Heatley, with his oddly comforting toothless smile and boyish demeanour, would not receive a harsh sentence. And that is the problem.

No one sees a problem with a system that allows superstar athletes to go virtually unpunished. And this problem is not limited to things like traffic tickets or even drug charges. We are talking about a guy who is directly and certainly responsible for the death of another human being.

This is not the first time that an athlete's celebrity has gotten them off the hook. We can easily recall the O.J. Simpson trial.

Marty McSorley is another example. He used his hockey stick like a baseball bat and smashed Donald Brashear on the side of the head. This incident resulted in the crushing sentence of an 18-month discharge and not being able to play against Brashear again. What deterrence for giving a guy a concussion.

We have let our obsession with celebrity athletes go too far. Athletes are citizens of the state like anyone else, but they certainly do not follow the same rules. It seems that, on or off the field of play, we see no problem with letting athletes punch, slash, assault and even bring about death, and yet do nothing to stop it.

The point here is not to suggest that prison would have been appropriate for Heatley. He is not a threat to the public and did not commit a criminal act in any real way. The point is to remind people that we cannot have a just society when we merely expect that when superstar athletes are responsible for homicides, they will and deserve to get off.

The judge in the Heatley case said that he took into consideration the possibility of ruining Heatley's hockey career in his sentencing. He did so on the advice of Snyder's father, who did not want Heatley's career to be ruined. It seems, however, that Dan Snyder's career was ruined far more than Heatley's.

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CBC loses Olympic broadcasting bid

Loss of 2010 and 2012 Olympic coveargе could put amateur sport in jeopardy

by Gavin Day

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) awarded the Canadian television rights for the 2010 and 2012 Olympics to Bell Canada Enterprises, in partnership with Rogers Media. This means the end to the CBC's Olympic coverage reign.

The CBC bid $90 million US for the rights to the 2010 games in Vancouver-Whistler and the 2012 summer games, where a host venue will be named this summer. The BCE-Rogers consortium bid $153 million US.

BCE-Rogers claims to show twice as much amateur sport on their airwaves than any other Canadian network. This claim is a little difficult to believe. As someone who follows amateur sport in non-Olympic years, I can safely say that while the new networks do show some amateur sport, they definitely cannot compete in both the depth and quality of the coverage on the CBC.

Not only does the CBC support amateur sports during Olympic years, they also show a wide range of amateur sport on a regular segment called CBC Sports Saturday. They believed that by broadcasting amateur sport they would be partners with the IOC in promoting such events in Canada.

Aside from television coverage, there is an Amateur Sport section on the CBC website. Olympic luger Regan Lauscher writes about her experiences on the road to next year's Olympics in Turin in an online journal. It also features current results and articles concerning Canadian athletes competing around the world.

The TSN website has only an article about the rights being sold to the BCE-Rogers consortium and a medal table from the Athens Olympics (which was last year)! Any Olympic news on the Sportsnet's website falls under the Other Sports category. Is this a commitment to amateur sport?

As a result of this decision, the CBC will probably cut their amateur sports programming, which is a shame. Broadcasting the Olympics were supposed to be a "thanks for continuing to support the amateur sports movement."

Instead, the rights for the 2010 and 2012 Olympics have been sold to organizations dissecting the smallest change in the current NHL labour crisis. If BCE-Rogers were genuine about amateur sport in this country, they would be using the current no-hockey situation as an opportunity to highlight unknown amateur athletes who all-the-while have been competing for our country.

GRAHAM STARK GRAPHIC

The IOC was supposed to be about the promotion of amateur sport, but its actions show a preference towards profit rather than towards promotion. Money will always be a major factor in sports today, but if the coverage on CTV and the other networks is terrible, Canadians will lose even more interest in the Olympic movement and in our amateur athletes.

If this were to happen, the networks would begin to pay less for the Canadian rights to the Olympics, decreasing the amount of money it makes.

As a huge fan of Canadian amateur sport, I have become comfortable watching the Olympics on the CBC. The quality of the broadcasting and the people on the CBC are second to none. Studio hosts Ron McLean, Terry Liebel and Brian Williams are extremely good hosts who genuinely care about all sport. Commentators like Steve Armitage have, in my mind, become icons.

The CBC has shown a true commitment to amateur sport, and in an extremely entertaining manner that keeps the audience involved. Come 2010, whoever takes over the jobs of Brian Williams and Co. have very big shoes to fill.

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Benefit concert with Fatal Error, Supernova, Next of Kin, Combat Wombat, and Maurice on Friday Feb.25th @ the Fernwood community Centre. Tix $8/10 @ the door. Doors open at 6:45 p.m..

Injured at the One Lounge by a Bouncer?
Has a One lounge bouncer ever used unwarranted or excessive force on you? I am a law student who was injured by unnecessary use of a "wrist-lock" in Dec. and am seeking justice. If this has happened to you or a friend, please contact me as it will greatly help the success of the action. Any award granted by the courts will go to a local charity that fights against violence. Please help, Rob. rshirkey@uvic.ca

FUNDRAISER SWAP N' SHOP - Saturday, March 5th 2005, from 08:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at l'École Victor-Brodeur, 2780 Richmond Road in the gymnasium. FREE ADMISSION. We are looking for members of the community interested in selling new/used items, crafts or collectibles. Table rentals are available for $10.00 each. To reserve a table please call Hélène at 388-4524. This is a fundraiser for the volleyball team's trip to Cuba. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

VICTORIA DOUKHOBOR CHOIR
Meets regularly on Sunday Evenings. Experience with Russian an Asset but not necessary. Everyone Welcome! For more Info Contact Andrei: 380-8386 or Johnny: 721-9269

The Victoria chapter of the Canada Tibet Committee will be holding a Walk for a Free Tibet on Saturday, March 5, starting at 12:30 at Centennial Sq. The walk will be to the Legislature with a rally there starting at about 1:00. In 1949 the army of the Peoples Republic of China invaded Tibet and began a brutally oppressive occupation that continues to this day.

Join the UVic Chess Club
Come and learn to play chess or improve your game. Club meets every Tuesday evening from 6:30-10 in the HSD building room A260. Contact dejamer@hotmail.com for more info. and put "chess" in subject box.

Theatre Inconnu Presents — in association with Human Motion Machine, **Tzara's Heart** Written and Directed by Ken Hudson. At the Little Fernwood Hall - 1923 Fernwood Road - across from the Belfry Theatre, Feb. 16 FREE preview @ 8pm Feb. 17 to Mar. 5: Wed through Sat (no show on Feb. 25) @ 8pm $10 general, $8 student/senior/unwaged, $5 under 16. Reserve & info: 360-0234

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ACCOMODATIONS

1-bdrm in Rockland $1,150 595-3053.

FOR SALE

Women's Vasque hiking boots, made in Italy. Size 10, fits like a 91/2. New $400. selling for $100. My loss, your gain. 995-0303.

ROAD BIKE FOR SALE! Mongoose carbon fibre road bike w/shimano 105 and Ultegra components, Mavic rims, STI shifters, carbon forks. Call 477-0162 or email arm@uvic.ca

HEY YOU!

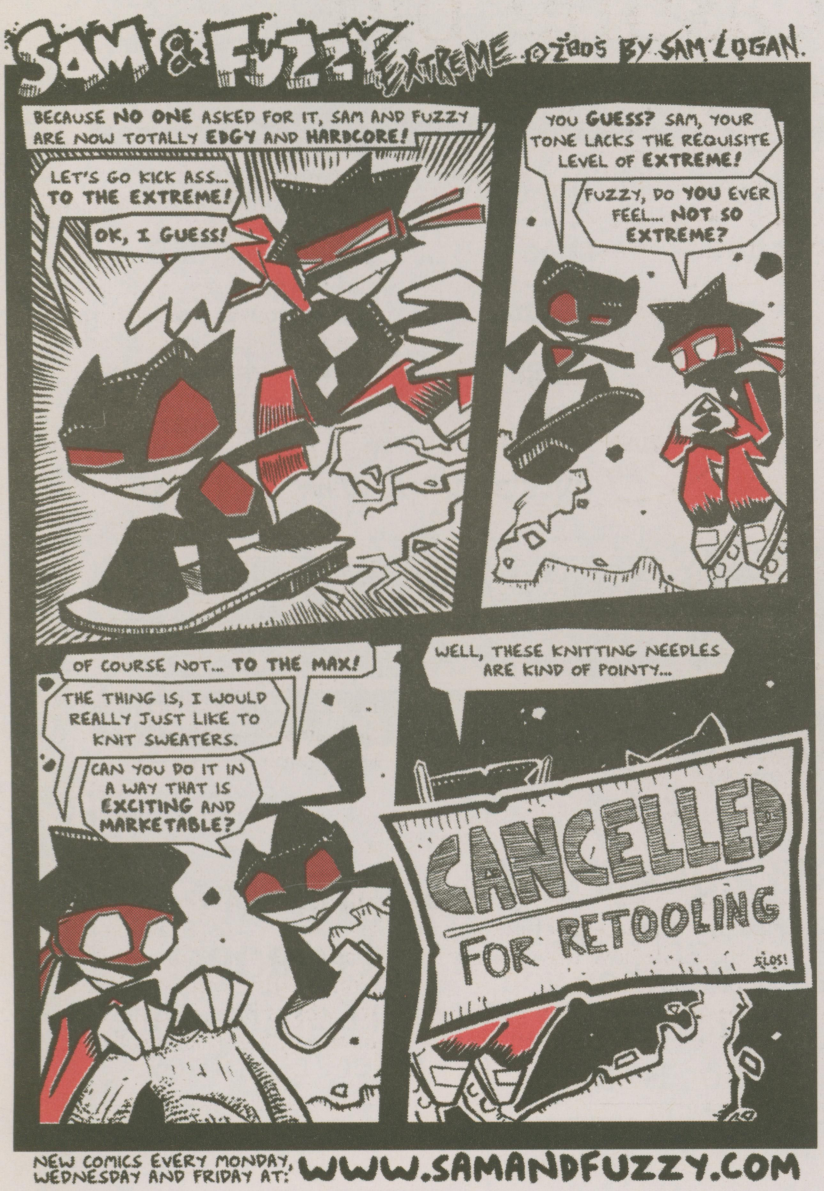
Bear, you are divine!! My day revolves around opportunities to kiss your lips and see you smile.

Hey naked bungy jumper. Your freely flying bosom haunts my soul. I would have gone butt i was afraid you'd squash me. Also, even though you haven't kissed any super heroes, you're still my hero. May you continue to have a blue Christmas.

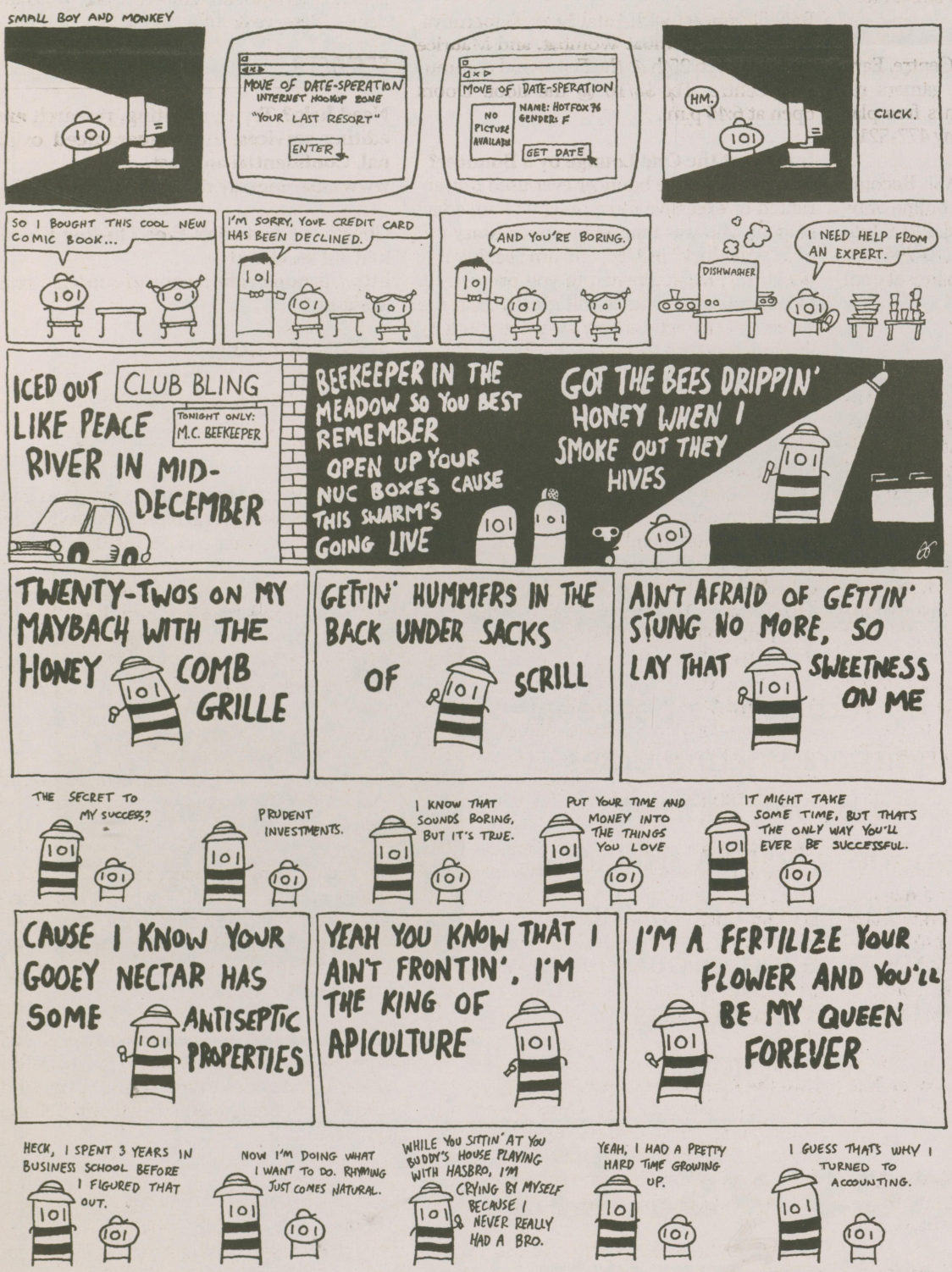
Hey! Tell me a story again some time. I used to love your stories. They would make me feel all warm and gooey inside. Mmm. Goo. And insides. Yup. Bring that feeling back. Tell me a good story.

CLASSIFIED RATES

Students and clubs | $2/issue
Non-students | $2/line
Businesses | $6/line
Hey you! | free

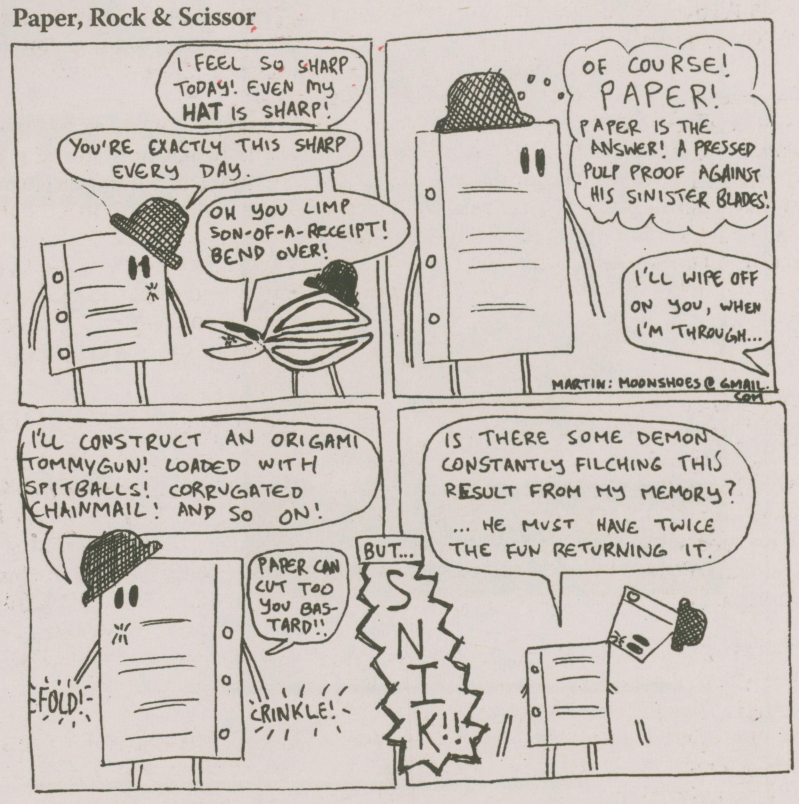

SAM & FUZZY EXTREME ©2005 BY SAM LOGAN.
BECAUSE NO ONE ASKED FOR IT, SAM AND FUZZY ARE NOW TOTALLY EDGY AND HARDCORE!
LET'S GO KICK ASS... TO THE EXTREME!
OK, I GUESS!
YOU GUESS? SAM, YOUR TONE LACKS THE REQUISITE LEVEL OF EXTREME!
FUZZY, DO YOU EVER FEEL... NOT SO EXTREME?
OF COURSE NOT... TO THE MAX!
THE THING IS, I WOULD REALLY JUST LIKE TO KNIT SWEATERS.
CAN YOU DO IT IN A WAY THAT IS EXCITING AND MARKETABLE?
WELL, THESE KNITTING NEEDLES ARE KIND OF POINTY...
CANCELLED FOR RETOOLING
SLOS!
NEW COMICS EVERY MONDAY, WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY AT: WWW.SAMANDFUZZY.COM

TREVOR, IT APPEARS WE'RE BEING CHASED BY AN IRATE RHINO..
YES QUINN I CAN SEE THAT. MAY I SUGGEST YOU SHUT UP AND KEEP RUNNING?
THE PLAN'S GONE A BIT... AWRY
IT'S GAINING ON US!
UM... I'D SAY OUR BIGGEST PROBLEM RIGHT NOW IS THAT FENCE...
GIVE ME JUST ONE SECOND. I'M GOING TO THINK OF A NEW PLAN.
AH.. THE SWEET EMBRACE OF DEATH! I NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D BE A RHINO...
SNORT!!
TREVOR?
CLICK
ATTENTION! THIS IS THE POLICE! PUT YOUR HANDS UP AND GET OUT OF THE RHINO PEN YOU POACHERS!
PSST! QUINN! I THINK WE'VE BEEN SPOTTED! LETS GO!

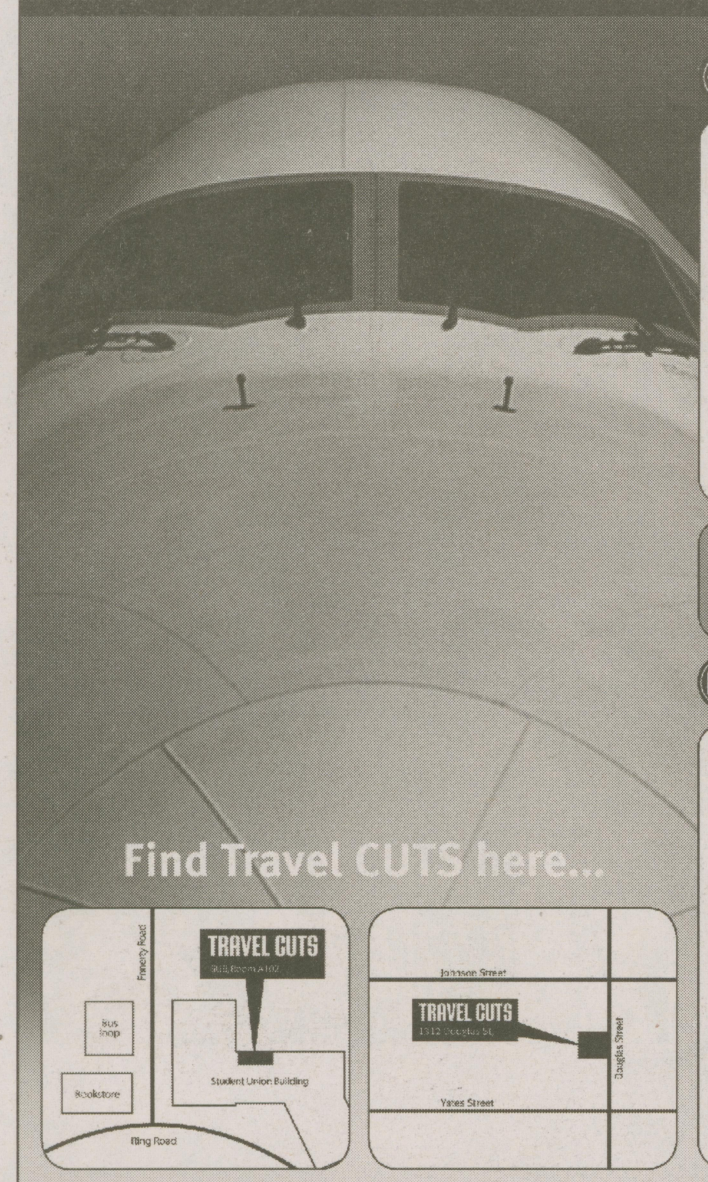

SMALL BOY AND MONKEY
MOVE OF DATE-SPERATION
INTERNET HOOKUP BONE
"YOUR LAST RESORT"
ENTER
NO PICTURE AVAILABLE
NAME: HOTFOX76
GENDER: F
GET DATE
HM.
CLICK.
SO I BOUGHT THIS COOL NEW COMIC BOOK...
I'M SORRY, YOUR CREDIT CARD HAS BEEN DECLINED.
AND YOU'RE BORING.
DISHWASHER
I NEED HELP FROM AN EXPERT.
ICED OUT LIKE PEACE RIVER IN MID-DECEMBER
CLUB BLING
TONIGHT ONLY: M.C. BEEKEEPER
BEEKEEPER IN THE MEADOW SO YOU BEST REMEMBER OPEN UP YOUR NUC BOXES CAUSE THIS SWARM'S GOING LIVE
GOT THE BEES DRIPPIN' HONEY WHEN I SMOKE OUT THEY HIVES
TWENTY-TWOS ON MY MAYBACH WITH THE HONEY COMB GRILLE
GETTIN' HUMMERS IN THE BACK UNDER SACKS OF SCRILL
AIN'T AFRAID OF GETTIN' STUNG NO MORE, SO LAY THAT SWEETNESS ON ME
THE SECRET TO MY SUCCESS?
PRUDENT INVESTMENTS.
I KNOW THAT SOUNDS BORING, BUT IT'S TRUE.
PUT YOUR TIME AND MONEY INTO THE THINGS YOU LOVE
IT MIGHT TAKE SOME TIME, BUT THAT'S THE ONLY WAY YOU'LL EVER BE SUCCESSFUL.
CAUSE I KNOW YOUR GOOEY NECTAR HAS SOME ANTISEPTIC PROPERTIES
YEAH YOU KNOW THAT I AIN'T FRONTIN', I'M THE KING OF APICULTURE
I'M A FERTILIZE YOUR FLOWER AND YOU'LL BE MY QUEEN FOREVER
HECK, I SPENT 3 YEARS IN BUSINESS SCHOOL BEFORE I FIGURED THAT OUT.
NOW I'M DOING WHAT I WANT TO DO. RHYMING JUST COMES NATURAL.
WHILE YOU SITTIN' AT YOU BUDDY'S HOUSE PLAYING WITH HASBRO, I'M CRYING BY MYSELF BECAUSE I NEVER REALLY HAD A BRO.
YEAH, I HAD A PRETTY HARD TIME GROWING UP.
I GUESS THAT'S WHY I TURNED TO ACCOUNTING.

by Russell Ross

Paper, Rock & Scissor


I FEEL SO SHARP TODAY! EVEN MY HAT IS SHARP!
YOU'RE EXACTLY THIS SHARP EVERY DAY.
OH YOU LIMP SON-OF-A-RECEIPT! BEND OVER!
OF COURSE! PAPER!
PAPER IS THE ANSWER! A PRESSED PULP PROOF AGAINST HIS SINISTER BLADES!
I'LL WIPE OFF ON YOU, WHEN I'M THROUGH...
MARTIN: MOONSHOES@GMAIL.COM
I'LL CONSTRUCT AN ORIGAMI TOMMYGUN! LOADED WITH SPITBALLS! CORRUGATED CHAINMAIL! AND SO ON!
FOLD!
PAPER CAN CUT TOO YOU BAS-TARD!!
CRINKLE!
BUT...
SNIK!!
IS THERE SOME DEMON CONSTANTLY FILCHING THIS RESULT FROM MY MEMORY?
... HE MUST HAVE TWICE THE FUN RETURNING IT.

TAKE OFF, eh!



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Rome	rtn from $589	Sydney	rtn from $1047
Zurich	rtn from $699	Auckland	rtn from $1057

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Agata Lis
Coalition of Independent Students

Monday, February 28th

DEBATE

3:00PM at Cinecenta

A no-holds barred debate between the two chairperson candidates sponsored by *the Martlet*, where reporters will be asking the hard-hitting questions the other debates leave out. See the two candidates duke it out on stage.

Penny-Lane Beames
Putting Students First

Beames vs. Lis

This Monday at the Cinecenta 3 PM